

the Hippo

DECEMBER 26, 2013 - JANUARY 1, 2014

HOT TUNES FOR
COLD NIGHTS P. 70

SPARKLING
WINES P. 48

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2014

A look back — and a look at the future

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GRANITE VIEWS **JODY REESE**
2014 predictions



Forget about 2013 — what's going to happen in 2014? Luckily, I have some insight (and, should any of these come true, look for me in line buying a few Powerball tickets).

- A plan by former Gov. Craig Benson to install 100 wind turbines off the shore of Rye actually gets passed with the stipulation that he donate his bulldozer to the local town government.

- Kelly Ayotte becomes minority leader of the Senate after Mitch McConnell loses his Senate seat in Kentucky. Ayotte was the only candidate for the position that most other Senate members didn't hate.

- Former Gov. John Lynch comes out of retirement to run Manchester-based Dyn, one of the state's fastest growing companies — joining Bob Baines who's already there. We're now just waiting for Judd Gregg to join the company.

- Nashua mayor Donnalee Lozeau turns state's evidence and implicates the entire Nashua city council in a scheme to profit from the city's new idea to pay for education: selling chocolate bars to students. The FBI says it's the largest confectionery conspiracy they had uncovered.

- Former House Speaker Bill O'Brien does run for and win the Republican nomination for governor after a record low turnout in the primary. O'Brien goes on to lose the general election against current Governor Maggie Hassan by the largest margin in state history. Exit polling suggests that nine out of ten Republicans voted for Hassan, a Democrat. One was quoted as saying, "Well, I can't say I agree with much Maggie Hassan says or does, but she's not a real you-know-what, like O'Brien." After the loss, O'Brien moves back to Massachusetts.

- Speaking of Massachusetts residents, former US Senator Scott Brown (who has or is in the process of moving to Rye, according to media reports) does indeed challenge US Senator Jeanne Shaheen for her seat. But Brown doesn't count on opposition for many in his own party and loses the primary to a 35-year-old movement conservative Robert Burns who then goes on to lose to Shaheen by 40 points. Some Republicans say it's time to reassess — others say Robert Burns wasn't conservative enough.

- New Hampshire's Department of Transportation actually finishes work on Interstate 93 between Manchester and the Massachusetts border. No, really.

- After years of declining passenger air traffic, Manchester Regional Airport actually sees a small increase with the introduction of Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville airline with direct flights to the Florida Keys and several of the Caribbean Islands.



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ON THE COVER

It's the last issue of 2013, and the Hippo is looking back at everything that happened locally in the arts, music, nightlife and more. You'll find these stories throughout the paper, along with some insight into what's in store for 2014.

Also on the cover, find out who's playing live music where in Music This Week, starting on p. 70. If you're staying in, the Hippo has some suggestions for sparkling wines that will warm you up on p. 48. Plus, find out where to go if you're looking for a rockin' New Year's Eve, starting on p. 64.



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New Hampshire's Rock-Paper-Scissors State Champion Rebekah Johnson from Concord Christian Academy in Concord.

Rock crushes scissors

Concord Christian Academy ninth-grader Rebekah Johnson came out victorious after she threw a rock to crush scissors during the final round of the first statewide Rock-Paper-Scissors Tournament Dec. 14.

During the tournament Johnson delivered 150 skillful "shoots." Along the way she locked in 10 personal victories against participants, according for a release.

What is a champion rock-paper-scissors player's strategy? Johnson said she heard someone say that guys tend to choose rocks for their first throw while girls most often choose scissors.

"I tried working with that information, and it worked out pretty well," Johnson said.

At the tournament participants were divided into four teams. Contestants who won the most games per round advanced to the next round from each team. Faceoffs were best two out of three, except for the final round, when best four out of seven took the win.

In addition to the highly revered title, Johnson received a trophy and collected a \$500 cash prize.

"I'm going to Disney World," Johnson said. "Kidding. I wasn't expecting to actually get the money. For now I'm saving it, but I'd like to do something special for somebody."

More than 350 middle and high school students competed for the title of New Hampshire's Rock-Paper-Scissors State Champion. Second place went to Lebanon Middle School sixth-grader Matthew Shipley, and Newmarket High School Student Sean Healy took third place. The originator of the tournament, Derryfield School freshman Jack Miron, is looking forward to next year's nail-biting competition.

Brown backed

Continued speculation that former Sen. Scott Brown of Massachusetts is planning to launch a Republican campaign against Sen. Jeanne Shaheen amped up last week. An advocacy group aired a 30-second TV commercial on WMUR-TV that was aimed at opposing Shaheen and promoting Brown's potential candidacy. The commercial criticized Shaheen's support of the federal healthcare law.

In the commercial, a narrator said, "Next November, if you like your senator, you can keep her. If you don't, you know what to do."

Meanwhile, Brown found a buyer for his Massachusetts home and announced plans to move to New Hampshire permanently, Bloomberg News reported.

Track domestic violence

Next year New Hampshire lawmakers will consider a proposal that would keep better track of the state's domestic violence offenders, according to an Associated Press article. Advocates are calling for a statute that would require the victim's relationship to the offender to be recorded. Thirty-four states and the federal government have similar laws in place. The law would make it easier to compile data about domestic violence and keep track of the specific nature of offenders' assault history.

Grants awarded

Five planning grant awards have been approved for community development projects around the state, the NH Community Development Finance Authority announced last week. The feasibility studies, funded by the federal Community Development Block Grant program, will allow local officials to assess the likelihood of success for these job creation and public facilities efforts. The towns of Tilton, Troy, Berlin, Jaffrey and Northumberland each received \$12,000. The planning grants await final confirmation from the Executive Council.

Propane tank rollover

A tanker crashed on I-293 North, north of Exit 7 early last Wednesday. As a result the highway was closed for nearly 12 hours, forcing

commuters to find a different route and causing major traffic headaches all day. The tanker was intact and no leaks were detected, according to reports. Police evacuated several homes in the area.

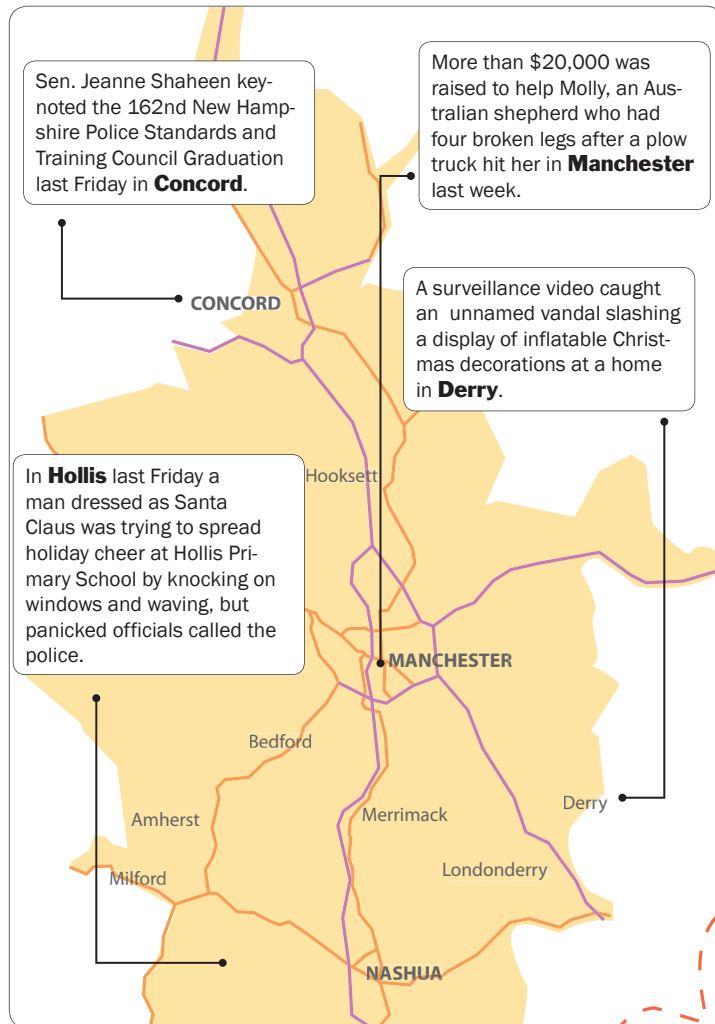
Hooksett votes for PA

The Hooksett School Board approved a long-term enrollment agreement with Pinkerton Academy in Derry last Wednesday. Starting next school year, Hooksett will be one of Pinkerton Academy's partners, said Mary Anderson, Pinkerton Academy's headmaster. Pinkerton officials will not know the total number of Hooksett students who will be matriculating at Pinkerton until next month, but registration for the next school year begins Jan. 6, and Hooksett students will be included in the high school's transition program for incoming freshmen, Anderson said.

"We're really looking forward to the transition," Anderson said.

Stagnant homeless stats

The rate of homelessness in the state is down, but only by 2 percent, according to a report released last week by the New Hampshire Coalition to End Homelessness. The state's homeless population dropped from 1,725 to 1,685 in 2013, the report stated. Many of the homeless people counted were in emergency shelters but more than one in four were unsheltered, living in cars, abandoned buildings, and other places not intended for human habitation, according to the report. Between 2011 and 2013



the number of homeless persons in families dropped by 15 percent, but the number of families who were doubled up or living in precarious housing increased significantly, the report stated.

Mental health settlement

A class action suit alleging that the State of New Hampshire has been violating the rights of individuals with serious mental illness by failing to provide community

mental health services ended in a settlement agreement last Thursday. The Disabilities Rights Center in Concord announced that under the proposed settlement agreement New Hampshire will expand its supported housing to include a minimum of 450 supported housing units, add Assertive Community Treatment to serve 1,500 people and significantly expand supported employment programs. 🌧️

BEST WEEK



THE OLD MAN OF THE MOUNTAIN

Governor Maggie Hassan joined the New Hampshire Liquor Commission to introduce the release of a limited edition Old Man of the Mountain Commemorative Liquor Bottle last Wednesday. The vodka bottle sports a painting of the Old Man of the Mountain and says, "Live Free or Die." They are available for \$29.99 at NH liquor and wine outlets. Proceeds from the bottles will fund the preservation of more than 100 deteriorating military flags displayed in the New Hampshire Hall of Flags at the Statehouse, according to a release. That's good news for the Liquor Commission, military flags, and Granite State memorabilia collectors all at once.

WORST WEEK



NH JUDICIAL BRANCH

New Hampshire was added to the American Tort Reform Association *Judicial Hellholes* "Watch List." The ATRF annual report documents developments in places where judges in civil cases systematically apply laws and court procedures in an unfair and unbalanced manner, generally against defendants. According to the report, "New Hampshire's civil litigation system is in danger of falling into the Hellholes abyss..." New Hampshire's contingency-fee lawyers, plaintiff-friendly judges, and ambitious politicians seeking re-election are creating a liability lawsuit environment that threatens to undermine the state's legal system and endanger economic competitiveness, the report stated.

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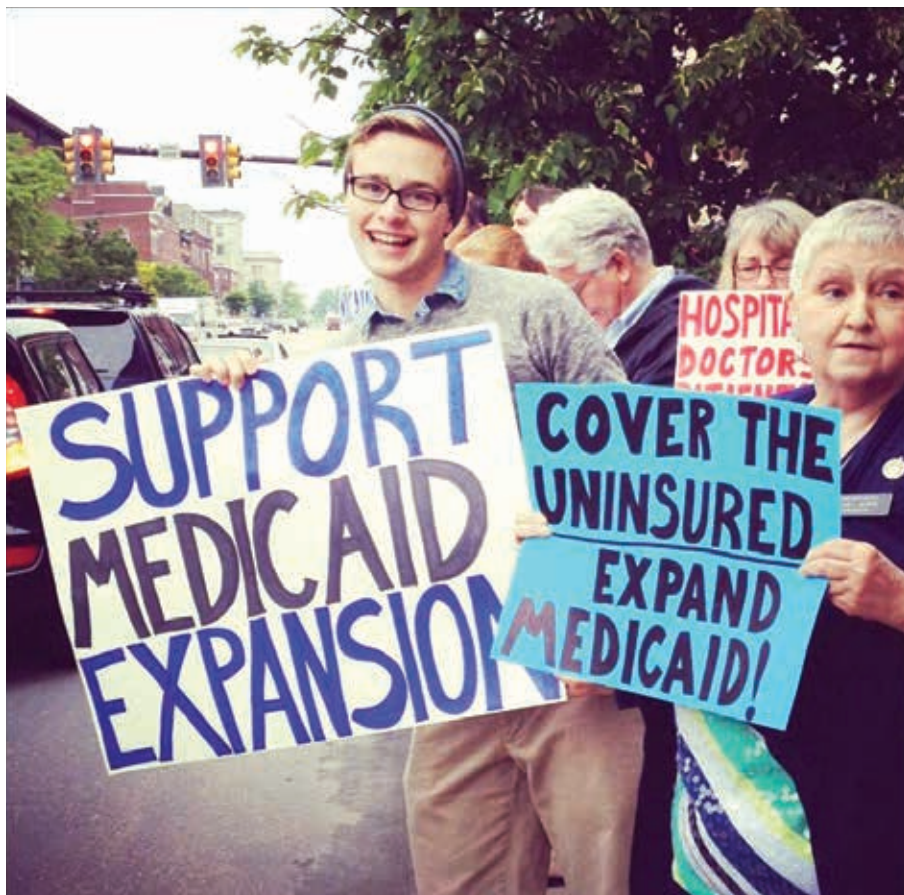
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Split control and healthcare combat

State Legislature often divided on party lines for biggest debates in 2013



The National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League supports Medicaid expansion at a protest last May.

By Rebecca Fishow
rfishow@hippopress.com

Divided control of the legislature with a Democratic governor and House of Representatives and a Republican state Senate has made for a competitive dynamic this year. Gov. Maggie Hassan took her place in the corner office and ended the year with strong approval ratings. Meanwhile, the saga of integrating the Affordable Care Act into the state trudged on as lawmakers struggled to find bipartisan solutions. Here's a look at those and other major political happenings of 2013.

'Fiscal realities'

Hassan had a strong start in office when the legislature passed her two-year budget proposal in June. The **\$10.7 billion state budget** "was not that different than what we saw passed by Republicans in the 2011- 2012 legislative session," Andrew Smith, a political analyst from the UNH Survey Center, said in a recent interview. "There were some changes but nothing too dramatic. That reflects that the fiscal realities hadn't changed."

The budget amped up state services for the mentally ill and funded services for adults with developmental disabili-

ties. It also secured increased state aid to the University System of New Hampshire and the Community College System of New Hampshire but cut some funding to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Sununu Youth Services Center, the Department of Revenue Administration and other programs.

In June New Hampshire ended the fiscal year with a **\$76.1 million surplus**. Strong revenues in the spring resulted from several lawsuit settlements, and lower-than-expected spending contributed to reversing a state revenue that was running \$41.1 million below projections in February.

Healthcare issues

Implementing the **Affordable Care Act** was front and center on New Hampshire's political stage this year.

"It's a big important issue worthy of a big fight," Fergus Cullen, former state Republican Party chairman, told the Hippo.

Decisions on how to integrate the act divided the legislature largely on party lines.

"There is a Republican majority in the state Senate who has been either blocking things or holding out for more private-sec-

tor-friendly approaches to health care," political analyst Dean Spiliotes said in a recent phone interview.

Hassan and the Democratic House were eager to implement **Medicaid expansion** and provide insurance for about 50,000 low-income New Hampshire residents using Federal funds provided by the Affordable Care Act. Leaders of the Republican Senate could not see eye to eye with Democrats on a few of the details and in June blocked the state from participating in the expansion program. The decision was not final, as the state established a commission to report back in October with nonbinding recommendations. In November a special session ended in a stalemate with Senate Republicans continuing to insist on moving more quickly to provide low-income adults with private, non government-supplied health insurance. The Republicans also killed their own plan.

Two years ago Republicans passed a law prohibiting a state-run model of an **insurance marketplace**. Consequently, when the federal insurance exchange began taking enrollments last October, Anthem was the only insurance company offering health plans for 2014. By mid-December, federal officials gave Minutemen Health of Massachusetts approval to join New Hampshire's Insurance exchange and Harvard Pilgrim also announced hopes to offer plans by 2015.

Decisions, decisions

The state's **casino debate** has been popular for decades, but it blew up this year. Hassan was the first New Hampshire governor to support bringing a high-end casino to the Granite State. The bill was squashed as the House voted to reject the legislation. Opposition argued that there are no regulations in place should a casino bill pass, so in the latest wrinkle to the debate, the New Hampshire Gaming Regulatory Oversight Authority drafted and approved a casino regulations bill, which was considered by the state's House of Representatives and Senate this month. The casino regulations bill met opposition from the Granite State Coalition Against Expanded Gambling and Casino Free New Hampshire.

In March the house voted to increase the state's **gas tax** by 12 cents but the senate rejected the idea with a vote to indefinitely postpone a vote on the bill. That vote effectively blocked the senate from considering any legislature regarding the gas tax for the remainder of the two-year session.

On the agenda

What's in store for 2014? Stay tuned for developments of the continued battle over Medicaid expansion and health-care. The legislature will also continue to explore options to increase state revenues and find solutions to funding critical roads and bridges projects like the widening of Interstate 93. More candidates will be announced for the 2014 state elections. We also will start to see more presidential candidates trickling in, which means visits from political heavy hitters under the guise of helping their candidates.

The New Hampshire Supreme Court issued a ruling upholding the conviction and **death sentence** of the state's only death row inmate, Michael Addison. Addison was convicted of fatally shooting police officer Michael Briggs in 2006. It was the state's first death sentence in nearly 50 years. The ruling came as the New Hampshire Coalition Against the Death Penalty launched a campaign to repeal the death penalty in the state. Hassan said she would be in support of the bill but only if it did not invalidate Addison's sentence.

New Hampshire became the 19th state to **legalize medical marijuana**, but it did so with one of the most restrictive laws in the country. Hassan signed the bill in July and said, "By providing strong regulatory oversight and clear dispensing guidelines this bill addresses many of the concerns that were expressed throughout the legislative process."

2014 campaigns

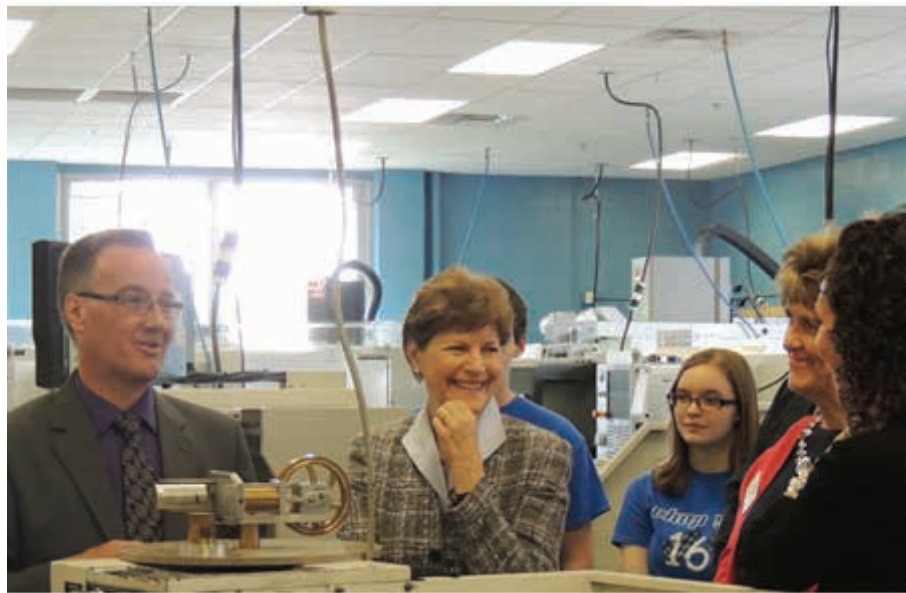
Many established Republicans have taken a pass on running for major offices in 2014.

"It's the 900-pound gorilla you can't ignore. We have proven candidates expressing suspicion that [New Hampshire] is shaping up to be a blue state," Cullen said.

John Sununu declined to run for a U.S. Senate seat, turning down what would have been his third head-to-head with Sen. Jeanne Shaheen. Senate Majority leader Jeb Bradley ruled out the New Hampshire Senate run and former Republican 2nd District Congressman Charlie Bass issued a statement he will not run for U.S. Senate in 2014 too. Republican Executive Councilor Chris Sununu said he will not run for governor, the U.S. House or the U.S. Senate, opting to seek re-election for executive council. ☁

Education snapshots

The ups and downs of 2013



Sen. Jeanne Shaheen announces the launch of STEM at Nashua Community College.

By Rebecca Fishow
rfishow@hippopress.com

Arnie Arnesen, host of radio talk show *Political Chowder*, said she wishes the New Hampshire education system could be more like Pres. John F. Kennedy.

“John F. Kennedy didn’t just make a statement, he funded it,” she said in a recent interview. “He dreamed and he funded the dream.”

In 2013 money troubles rattled both the state’s higher education system and the Manchester School District. Critics scrutinized New Hampshire’s position as the nation’s leader in student debt, while the Hooksett School District continued to piece together a solution to a major problem: where should the town’s high school students study in the face of the Manchester School District’s budget shortfalls?

Despite financial difficulties, the year did see some exciting developments in education too, including the state securing a No Child Left Behind waiver, which is making way for some serious education-system problem-solving. Here’s a rundown of 2013’s biggest stories in education:

- Rising student debt was a national hot topic, and the issue hit home with a vengeance in New Hampshire. On average, a New Hampshire college student graduated with \$32,440 in debt this year — the nation’s highest level of debt.

“It’s becoming a burden that’s too much to bear,” René Drouin, president and CEO of Granite State Management & Resources, told the Hippo in October. “It’s becoming out of reach for many.”

In his latest report, Brian Gottlob, an

economist with PolEcon, explained that high tuition and student debt levels cannot be fixed with a single solution.

“In New Hampshire we really do rely on skilled, well-educated individuals for our economic success, and because it’s been harder and harder to attract them it becomes important to produce them,” Gottlob said in a recent interview. “I think it’s really a signal to much larger things to come in the business models and how higher education is delivered.”

- In June the U.S. Department of Education approved the state’s request to waive 10 separate sections of No Child Left Behind. The waiver dropped the “failing” label of 75 percent of the state’s schools and allowed the education community to begin focusing on developing plans to fix problem areas in education.

“It’s created new opportunities for the state to look at how they provide support for all students,” said Michelle Lewis, executive director of Parent Information Center in a recent interview. “It’s been positive when the communication is strong. When there isn’t communication, that’s when people get concerned.”

- The Manchester School District’s new superintendent, Dr. Debra Livingston, set to work on the district’s top priorities for the year. These included updating technology and making sure all books have been ordered, as well as addressing overcrowding issues.

“It’s been wonderful. I really feel so welcomed and embraced by the community, Livingston said in an interview last week. “I continue to be in awe of all of the things our staff, teachers, and administrators have been doing to support learning. It’s been a big learning curve, of course.”

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• Bloated class sizes continued to riddle the Manchester School District. At the beginning of the school year some Manchester high school classrooms exceeded 40 students. That's 10 students more than state standards for the maximum high school classroom size. The numbers incited an outcry from the public and the district went to work on finding solutions. It has managed to reduce class size to fewer than 30 students in elementary and middle schools. The district has a plan in place to reach the same goal for the high schools, Livingston said.

• The Hooksett School District endured a very public and complicated process of negotiating options for its high school students. In 2012 the Manchester School District suffered an \$8 million budget cut that led to unmet education standards. Members of the Hooksett School District community called out a breach of contract between the two districts, Hooksett School Board member John Lycars said in a recent interview. In 2013 stakeholders in Hooksett quarrelled over whether entering into an exclusive contract with Pinkerton Academy in Derry or providing students with the option to attend other districts would be the best course of action. In July, Hooksett entered into an agreement with Manchester that stated Manchester would accept all Hooksett students who want to go there, but the students are free to enroll at other districts if they prefer. A key clause in the agreement stated that by 2016 Hooksett would negotiate a new contract with Manchester in good faith, Lycars said. By late fall Hooksett secured Memorandums of Understanding with the Londonderry and Bow school districts and voted to accept a contract with Pinkerton Academy. If the two districts enter into an agreement, Hooksett may have a lawsuit on its hands from the Manchester School District, which is citing a breach of contract. The saga will undoubtedly continue in 2014.

• In response to an evident growing need for high school graduates to be educated in science, technology and math, University of New Hampshire Manchester and Manchester Community College paired up with public schools to offer the new STEM Ahead Initiative to K-12 students. The program aims to support students so that by the time they graduate from high school they have completed a year of college. STEM also tries to develop pathways between businesses in the state to students by way of internships in order to prepare them for the current job market.

Showing love to the arts, the Manchester School District added an "A" for art, thus creating the STEAM (science, technology, art and math) Ahead Initiative. "We felt strongly about arts education,"



Manchester School District Superintendent Dr. Debra Livingston. Courtesy photo.

Livingston said in an interview, "because adding arts to science and technology enhances a student's understanding of the world."

• Good news for the state's charter schools: In July the state Legislature lifted a nearly 11-month moratorium on public charter schools. The New Hampshire Board of Education got back to work examining all the charter schools in queue, said Eileen Liponis, executive director of the New Hampshire Public Charter School Association. Four new public charter schools have been authorized to open in the coming school year and four more charter schools should be authorized in 2014.

• School districts offering full-day kindergartens were on the rise in 2013. About one-third of the districts in New Hampshire offered the option. Per state law, all districts must offer at least a half-day option for kindergarten. Bedford, Nashua, Hollis, Salem, Hopkinton and Derry offered both full- and half-day kindergarten. Laconia expanded to offer just full-day kindergarten, doing away with half-day kindergarten altogether.

• The University of New Hampshire unveiled a shiny new logo in December. The blue-and-white design was months in the making and features "NH" nestled inside a shield.

The reveal generated lots of buzz, but Arnesen said the public ought to be focused instead on fixing the problems of both education funding and continual high rates of substance abuse at New Hampshire colleges and universities.

"Everybody is talking about the logo," Arnesen said last week. "What do people know about the university? Why aren't they upset about the kids who can't go to school?"

The president is in

Saint A's new president talks transition and campus dining

Last July Dr. Steven DiSalvo signed on as Saint Anselm College's first non-monastic president in the institution's 125-year history. He has spent most of his career in Catholic education as a fundraiser at three other institutions. Now DiSalvo is getting to know the Saint Anselm College community and leading with a mission "to serve the students."

Q: *What have your first few months been like?*

They've been wonderful. It's been a great transition. Saint Anselm is a very welcoming place. I'm spending time getting to know the students, spending time at sports events, eating at the dining hall and visiting student groups.

How is the dining hall food?

It's outstanding. We have the 12th best food in the county according to the Princeton Review. I love the food, and the students love the food.

What are your top priorities at Saint Anselm?

I've been talking about raising the visibility of the college so that more people know about Saint Anselm beyond the 100-mile radius, as you get down to Connecticut, New York, Washington, D.C., and even Chicago. I'd like to have more people know who we are and what we're about.

Second is engaging alumni and friends in helping to recruit quality students. Word of mouth is the best way to spread the word about Saint Anselm. Also fundraising. In order to keep costs down you need to raise money. You need to have a healthy endowment and scholarships so out-of-pocket expenses are reasonable for families.

Has anything about the Saint Anselm community surprised you?

I guess the biggest surprise has been just how welcoming and friendly everybody is. It's the type of place where students will stop me across campus and welcome me to school. They will tell me where they



Dr. Steven DiSalvo

are from and what they study. Quite frankly, it's not something I've seen at other places.

What does your typical day look like?

There's no typical day! My mornings start out with leadership team in my office for the standup meeting. Nobody sits down. It's to review what's happening today and tomorrow. It's quick communication but sets the tone for the day. Then beyond that it's either meetings with faculty, students or staff. I try to walk around the campus a little bit. And then it depends on what the work of the day is. It might be development work. It might be some strategic planning, discussions about budgeting or finance. It might be issues regarding student rights. I can tell you that there isn't a lot of free time in the day.

As the first non-monastic president in the college's 125-year history, what do you bring that's unique?

First, I always talk about leading with mission so everything we do is focused on serving the students. I'm also a parent, so I have teenage boys at home. I'm able to look through the lens of a parent and answer questions from a perspective that's unique in a sense that I live these issues every day with my own children. I have a great relationship with the advent and the monastic community. We all have to be on the same page to make sure the college is moving in one direction.

When you're not in the office, what are you doing?

I like to spend time with my family. We have two boys at home. One is in college. My wife has been active on campus as well. We like to stay home and do something quiet. We're a big movie family so we like to go out to the movies. We also like to explore New Hampshire. We've been to Portsmouth, the mountains, and Lake Winnepesaukee. We've even made it up to parts of Maine. We like to do some exploring. — *Rebecca Fishow*

Five favorites

Favorite book: I love Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*.

Favorite movie: At this time of year I love to watch *It's a Wonderful Life*. I am also a big *Godfather Trilogy* guy.

Favorite type of music: I would say more contemporary. My kids would say "Old people's music," but I would say light rock.

Favorite food: I'm 100 percent Italian, so I think that answers the question.

Favorite thing about NH: I love the location. I think we've got the best of four worlds all within an hour-and-a-half drive.

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

The government shutdown's local impact

It wasn't great. Many New Hampshire businesses were affected, either because they rely on federal loans, or, like Titeflex in Laconia, because they rely on government employees — in their case, a government inspector — in their day-to-day operations. The shutdown affected New Hampshire's visitors, and thus, more of the state's business; all except 22 privately run campgrounds in the White Mountain National Forest closed during the government shutdown, days before the big peak at Columbus Day weekend, which according to a Union Leader report cost the federal campgrounds \$50,000.

QOL Score: ?

Comment: *And it's still affecting us: According to a recent WMUR report, the IRS stated that it won't start processing 2013 tax returns until Jan. 31 next year, 10 days later than originally scheduled.*

Boston marathon bombings

Though the bombings were in Boston, they affected New Hampshire and its people, too, both directly (through injury) and indirectly (through knowing someone injured, running or simply at the bombings).

QOL Score: ?

Comment: *The repercussions were terrible, but similar to after 9/11, QOL saw a strength and pride form in people all over New England, and a new, fervid eagerness for runners to take part in the 2014 Boston Marathon — so much so that race organizers were forced to lower the qualifying time by 1 minute and 38 seconds in September.*

Housing market stays strong

New Hampshire has had a long way to climb since the national housing bubble burst. In 2012 the market began its slow trek back to a normal real estate market, and it picked up speed in 2013. Year-to-date the state closed on 14,052 properties, which is up from 12,719 in 2012. The median sales price also rose from \$193,000 in 2012 to \$210,000 this year. The number of new listings also was up, and the average number of days properties were on the market was down, according to the New Hampshire Association of Realtors. That's good news for the economy overall, said economist Dennis Delay of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies. "It will put money in people's pockets," he said in a recent interview. "It's also going to spur on the construction industry."

QOL Score: ?

Comment: *When people sell their houses for higher prices they have more money to spend on other things, which boosts the overall economy. But Delay also cautioned that the market is "probably just as dangerous now as it was in 2008. Our ability to look into the future is always shrouded in fog."*

Obamacare or NObarcare?

New Hampshire struggled with integrating Obamacare this year. The lamentable launch of the federal government's healthcare website stalled residents from signing up for coverage. Some people received premium increase notices. Because of legislation that barred a state-run marketplace, only one healthcare provider offered policies under the new law. Ten New Hampshire hospitals were excluded from the state's health insurance exchange.

QOL Score: ?

Comment: *The list of stalls and restrictions for people looking to receive the benefits of Obamacare went on and on in 2013, and the issue will probably play a major role in political races in 2014.*

QOL score at the end of 2012: 86

QOL score at the end of 2013: 75

Change in 2013 QOL over 2012: -11

What's affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire? Let us know at news@hippypress.com.

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SHAREHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

November 21, 2013

To All Plausawa Valley Associate Shareholder,

The sale of Plausawa Valley Country Club was finalized on 2/28/2012.

Plausawa Valley Associates Board prefer that you send in your actual stock certificates in order for us to mail you the payment for them. Certificates must have your name on them.

If you cannot find your certificates, please send a note to me stating how many shares you believe you had, and we will compare it to the records. We will send you a payment for the outstanding amount due to you according to our records.

In either case, please include your current address and Social security number.

If you have any questions, I can be reached via email at Knutte.klotz@philips.com

Mail to: PO Box 195, Pembroke, NH 03275.

Please allow 10 business days, once we have received your stock certificates.

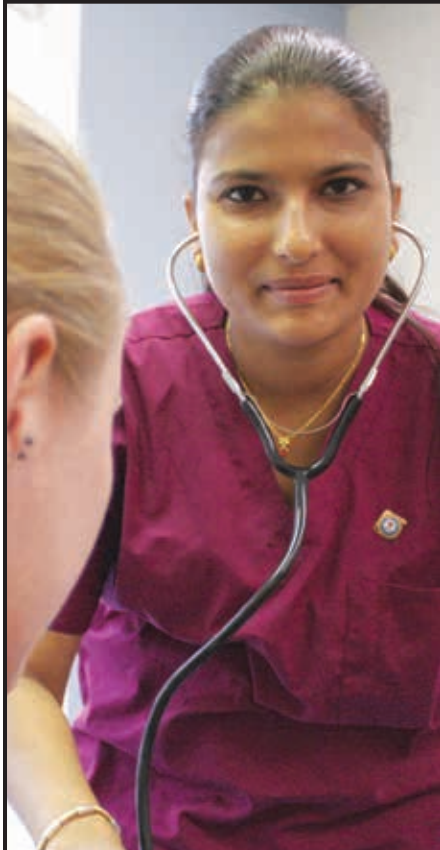
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The Health Profession Opportunity Project is an initiative of the NH Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health and Refugee Affairs and is supported by Grant 90FX0003 from the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The project described is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of HHS.

A study funded by the federal government is being conducted to determine how these training opportunities help people to improve their skills and find better jobs. During the study, eligible applicants will be selected by lottery to receive healthcare training. Not all eligible individuals will be selected to participate.

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SPORTS DAVE LONG'S LONGSHOTS



A year of surprises

It was a year of surprising, interesting, beguiling and flat-out exciting stories. And two were

too stunning to imagine would ever happen — but they did. Here's a look back at my top 10 stories of 2013.

10 – Celtics Blow it Up: Some wanted to give it one more go with KG and PP, but after a close to .500 finish and getting swept in the playoffs only the delusional didn't know it was time. The big story is the haul **Danny Ainge** took back from the Nets, which could include FOUR lottery picks if (1) (unlikely) the Nets and Hawks both finish in the 2014 and (2) things fall apart in Brooklyn after KG and PP hang it up and they fall to the lottery in 2016 and 2018 when the Cs own their pick and 2017 when they have the right to swap picks. Now all is needed is a little luck and Danny not to blow the picks.

9 – Gronk Goes Down: In those first two years the Gronk sure seemed indestructible. But the NFL catches up to almost everyone sooner or later and has for him. First he broke his arm last October playing on special teams, which most figured he'd be back from in two or three weeks. But he played just once before the playoffs, then re-broke the same arm early in Game 1 of the playoffs. Since then he's had five operations on his arm, back and now right knee. With him out of the line-up, the offense has atrophied accordingly.

8 – Bruins Comeback Stuns Pittsburgh: Down three goals with 11 minutes to go in Game 7 vs. Toronto they looked, as **Tony Soprano** would say, dead, dead, DEAD. But then the magic hit. A goal at the 11-minute mark cut it to 4-2. Then with just 1:22 left, **Milan Lucic** stuffed home a goal and Patrice Bergeron followed with another 32 seconds later to make it

4-4 with 50 seconds left. Bergeron did it again in OT to conclude one of the greatest escapes in Stanley Cup history.

7 – Manti Teo's Unreal Girl Friend: The cynics believe it was a made-up dead girlfriend by an attention-seeking Heisman Trophy candidate. Most believe he was punked into believing she was real but carried on a *two-year* relationship without ever meeting her. Either way, it snowballed out of control and left Teo and Notre Dame embarrassed and looking silly.

6 – Koji Uehara: Most thought **Koji Uehara** would just be a good eighth-inning bridge guy. After all, they had two closers in **Andrew Bailey** and newly acquired **Joel Hanrahan**. But Hanrahan didn't make it out of April, and Bailey, as usual, followed to the DL, and **Junichi Tazawa** wasn't the answer. So in desperation **John Farrell** turned to Koji in late June. He gave up just two earned runs in 3½ months. The ERA was 0.40 as closer and 1.09 for the year. He struck out 101 in 74 innings and was better in the playoffs to close out an amazing season NO one saw coming.

5 – Alabama's Face Turns Crim-son: The completely improbable finish to this year's Iron City Bowl between Alabama and Auburn was truly transcendent. So good, in fact, it surpasses BC-Miami 1984 to land at No. 2 on the list of most unbelievable endings in college football history. Here's why: (1) Auburn's **Chris Davis** 109-yard game-winning run back of Bama's missed game as time expired is even more unexpected than a Hail Mary pass. (2) While Miami was the defending national champion, the team the Doug Flutie-to-**Gerard Phelan** TD pass beat was just a mediocre 8-5, while Auburn not only derailed Bama's hopes of three straight national titles, it put itself into the BCS title game instead. (3) Miami-BC were kinda sorta rivals, but the Iron City Bowl is an old rivalry every football fan down there has a stake in and they are so

demented a crazed Bama fan went to jail in 2010 for poisoning a signature row of trees leading to the Auburn campus.

4 – Bruins Cough Up Cup: Yes, a rough headline for a team that fell a game short of winning the Stanley Cup. But it's how they did it — losing the last two to the Blackhawks when the Cup was in their grasp. But that doesn't erase the comeback vs. Toronto, crushing the Rangers and sweeping the Penguins in what was a fabulous year.

3 – Hernandez Arrested for Murder: If **Aaron Hernandez** did murder **Oden Lloyd** as is alleged, it leaves three questions: (1) Did the Patriots have any inkling of the kind of guy he was? (2) If he was doing PCP as alleged, how did he pass the drug tests? (3) Given all the evidence left behind, like Lloyd being killed less than a mile from Hernandez' house and shell casings matching the bullets that killed Lloyd being left in the back seat of the rental car, will Hernandez go down as the dumbest criminal in history?

2 – Terror at the Boston Marathon: Things like a terrorist bombing happen in other places — not in Boston. But three people died and scores were injured, many losing limbs, when two bombs exploded near the finish line on Boylston Street. Amid the horror there were countless acts of bravery and kindness. "Boston Strong" became the rallying cry, and while it couldn't change what happened, it may have helped some recover a little quicker.

1 – Red Sox Stun Baseball: This certainly includes me. After a year of complete chaos, I had them winning 82 games before it all started. You know the story: They started fast, the whole grew to be greater than the sum of its parts and they just kept rolling, to the continued (in my case) disbelief of those who were watching. It was different than winning in 2004, but in some ways it was better.

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2013 happenings by the numbers

As we close the year, here are some notable events that happened on the local front.

January

3 – NFL teams that were after Manchester Central alum **Chip Kelly** before he became the first person with local ties to be a head coach in the world's greatest football league. He begged out in Buffalo and Cleveland, and reportedly in Philadelphia, before a change of heart. He eventually said yes to the Eagles and the rest, as they say, is history, as the last-in-2012 Eagles are now in the driver's seat atop in the NFC East and looking like they are headed to the playoffs.

February

17 – **Lebron James**-like free throws made by **Sandi Purcell** in Alvime's 67-53 win over Nashua North to finish with 29 overall points for the game as the Broncos closed their regular season tied at 13-5.

31 – points scored by Trinity's **Carmen Giampetruzzi** in a 67-61 win over Dover in recording his third straight double-double as the momentum was beginning to build for the Pioneers in a run that took them to win the Division I basketball title in March.

March

2 – local state hockey championship winners in one day at the world famous Verizon Wireless Arena when Memorial topped Central 3-2. **Adam Tack** got the game winner 3:21 into OT in the first ever Hockey Final meeting between two Manchester schools and Bedford won its second straight Division II title with a 5-2 win over Merrimack.

8,357 – fans on hand for the NCAA Northeastern Regional title at the V when UMass-Lowell held off UNH 2-0 behind 28 stops by freshman goaltender **Connor Hellebuyck** to send the River Hawks on to their first Frozen Four appearance.

April

11 – hits recorded by the Fisher Cats in the 2013 home opener in a 13-0 win over Reading behind six shutout innings from **Austin Bibens-Dirkx**, three hits by **Kenny (HEY Mr.) Wilson** and a two-run homer from **Ryan (Moe, Larry and) Schimpf**.

21 – awesome number of strikeouts recorded by **Katie Pelton** while facing just 22 batters when she one-hit Plymouth in a 3-1 Trinity softball win.

May

67 – wins against one puny loss by the remarkable Bedford boys over the last four years after the team won its fourth straight state lacrosse title with a 6-3 win over Exeter.

June

40 – sensational consecutive game win-

ning streak for Bedford after a 16-2 pasting of Goffstown to earn a second straight State Lacrosse title as **Jason Campbell** and **Dan Colella** combined for 10 goals.

July

15,000 – dollars in prize money won by **P.K. Kongkraphan** in her first Symetra Tour win after defeating **Michelle Shin** in a playoff at the Northeast Delta Dental International at Beaver Meadow Golf Club in Concord

August

1.09 – what the ERA of uber Red Sox pitching prospect **Henry Owens** dropped to after he allowed two hits in 6.2 scoreless innings in his Northeast Delta Dental Stadium debut during a 9-2 Portland C-Dogs win over the F-Cats.

September

100 – year anniversary observed for venerable Gill Stadium, which opened as Textile Field in May 1913 and hosted the reigning World Champion Red Sox in a grand opening later that year, and which through the years has seen the likes of **Babe Ruth**, **Tris Speaker** and baseball's first DH, **Ron Bloomberg** of the Manchester Yankees.

October

16 – astonishing two-game goal total for Derryfield freshman soccer star **Gabi Brummett** after getting NINE in an 11-0 win over Farmington and seven more the next day in a 12-0 win over Portsmouth Christian Academy. Two days later she got three more in a 4-0 win over Hinsdale.

556 – number of yards in a single game by Manchester Central tailback **Jesiah Wade**. It was the greatest output by a running back in state history and 12th best in WORLD history. It came in a 56-35 win over Merrimack as he scored six TDs and did it on just 31 carries.

November

12 – consecutive wins for Concord after thumping Pinkerton 42-14 to win its first state football title since 2000 and record the first undefeated and untied season in the school's 116-year history behind all-world QB **Rob Law**'s best ever passing day when he was 8-11 for 219 yards and three TDs.

December

2 – number of Division II National Soccer Championships now won by Southern New Hampshire University after it blew through the field in the national tournament this year to claim the 2013 title. The team claimed it in a final game 2-1 win over **Carson (hello) Newman** of Jefferson City, Tenn., behind goals by **Miguel Carneiro** and **Pierre Omanga**. 🌧️

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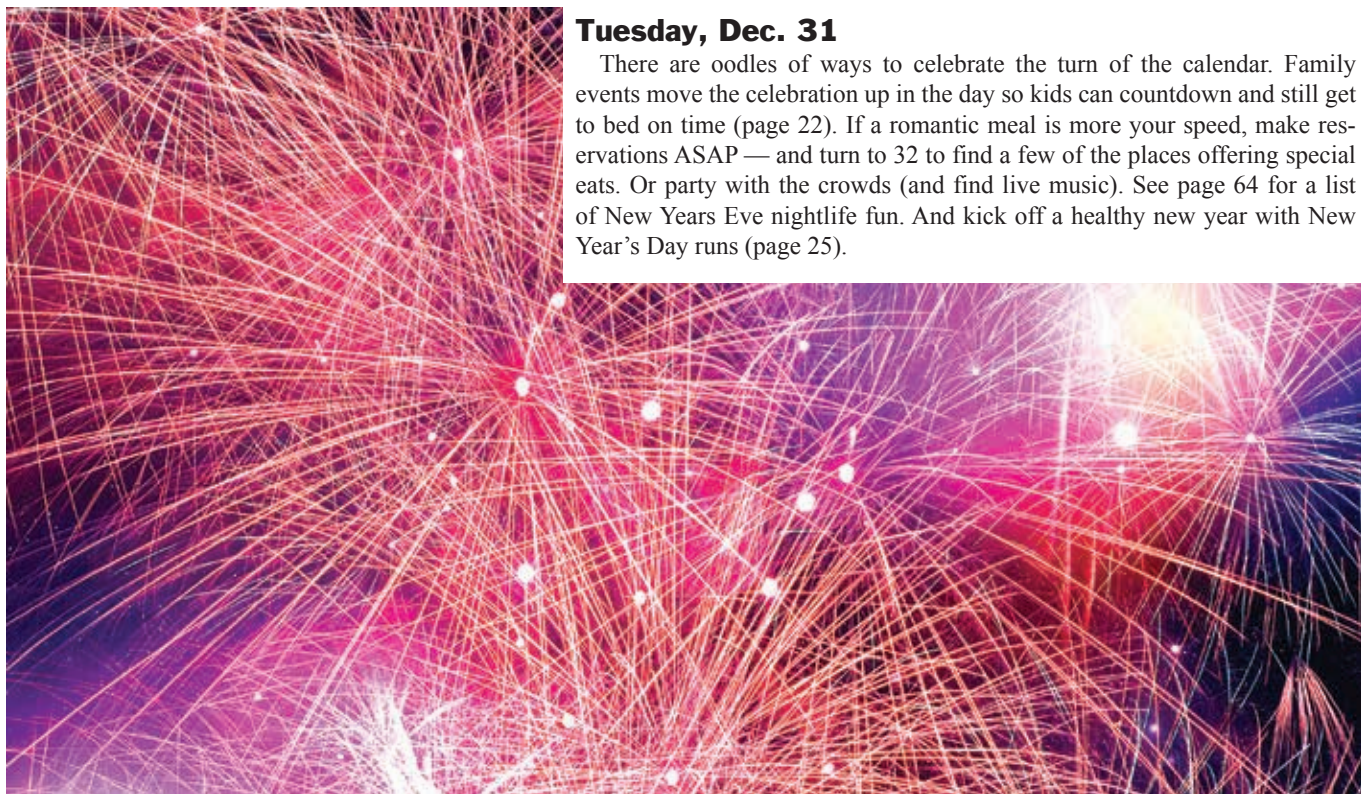
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THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT DECEMBER 26, 2013 – JANUARY 1, 2014, AND BEYOND



Tuesday, Dec. 31

There are oodles of ways to celebrate the turn of the calendar. Family events move the celebration up in the day so kids can countdown and still get to bed on time (page 22). If a romantic meal is more your speed, make reservations ASAP — and turn to 32 to find a few of the places offering special eats. Or party with the crowds (and find live music). See page 64 for a list of New Year's Eve nightlife fun. And kick off a healthy new year with New Year's Day runs (page 25).



Thursday, Dec. 26

Take the kids to see puppets, magic, jugglers and more at the "West-Fest: New Vaudville Festival" shows presented by Pontine Theatre (at the West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St. in Portsmouth) today through Monday, Dec. 30, with shows at 2 p.m. each day. The shows are billed as all ages; tickets cost \$15. See pontine.org.



Thursday, Dec. 26

See Alana Susko and her comedy showcase at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St. in Nashua) tonight at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 at the door. Find more on Susko at comedyonpurpose.com (and in Hippo's Aug. 16, 2012, cover story, available at hippopress.com; click on this week's issue and then search for the issue with Alana on the cover by clicking on the calendar icon on the bottom left of the page). Find more live comedy on page 72.

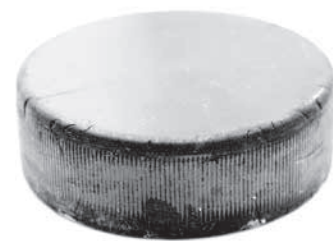
Eat

Get ready to flex your cheese-melting muscles. The Macaroni and Cheese Bake Off will be Saturday, Jan. 18, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center (70 Constitution Ave. in Concord). For those just looking to eat, admission costs \$10 for adults, \$3 for kids ages 6 to 12, free for kids age 5 and under. But those looking to pit their mac & cheese against the mac & cheese of others can register to compete by Tuesday, Jan. 14. Register by Fri., Jan. 3, and receive free cheese from Cabot. The cost to register is \$10. See nhdairypromo.org.



Tuesday, Dec. 31

Need even more New Year's Eve ideas? How about a movie? Red River Theatres (11 S. Main St. in Concord, redrivetheatres.org) will present *The Band Wagon*, a 1953 musical featuring Fred Astaire. The movie starts at 8 p.m. and the theater suggests you "come dressed for a classy night out" and enjoy a champagne toast after the screening. Tickets for the evening cost \$18 (\$10 for the screening only) are for sale online.



Tuesday, Dec. 31

Or, for the sports minded, head to the Verizon Wireless Arena in downtown Manchester to catch the Manchester Monarchs take on the Providence Bruins at 7 p.m. The first 3,000 fans receive a foam glow stick; after the game, stick around for what's billed as the largest indoor fireworks show in New England. Tickets are for sale at manchestermonarchs.com.

Drink

Get wild and drink some local brews at the Game Dinner with White Birch Brewing on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cask & Vine (1½ E. Broadway, Derry, 965-3454, caskandvine.com). Call for reservations.

Be merry

One more New Year's Eve idea: Head to First Night Portsmouth, an event featuring a variety of live music offerings including a Battle of the Bands, puppets, star-gazing, ice sculpture and of course a count down to the new year at locations (both indoors and outdoors) around downtown Portsmouth. See proportsmouth.org for a rundown of events and a map.

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Better quality, more interest

2013 was a year of community-driven art



Katie Collins and Barbara Webb in *Wit*. Courtesy photo.

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

For New Hampshire's art scene, 2013 certainly wasn't boring.

Yes, there were a few pitfalls — a couple of theater companies closed and a local symphony orchestra postponed its season due to unexpected weather, scheduling and financial challenges — but for the most part, there was a lot of growth and a lot of “risk-taking,” especially in New Hampshire theater, said Bob Frasca, who, among other roles, is the executive director of the New Hampshire Theatre Awards.

“Overall, I see an increase in the quality of productions. It seems like every group is challenging itself to raise the bar, which is refreshing to see,” Frasca said in a short phone interview last week.

Also evident in 2013 was the effort to bring art into the community through outdoor murals, sculptures, yarn bombs (the Currier Museum of Art displayed the state's largest fiber art display to date last May) and social art events.

Some theater companies fell as new ones rose

New Thalian Players ended its reign at the end of last year, but some of its key players, including Joel Mercier, Beth Fenske and Beth Ann O'Hara, have been involved with a new theatrical venture in the **New Hampshire Theatre Factory**, a nonprofit dedicated to providing theater in southern New Hampshire. The company aims to build a 300-seat theater in

Londonderry. Founders Mercier and Wallace J. Pineault (O'Hara and Fenske were on the advisory board) started its “Jumpstart the Factory” series at Halloween with *Ghost Hunting: The Musical Murder Mystery* in the aim to raise funds and spread awareness.

Also new to the New Hampshire theater scene, a company called **Artists Collective Theatre** began performing at Nashua's Hunt Building last summer with Zach Braff's dark play, *All New People*. ACT has since been showing edgy, contemporary productions like *Venus in Fur* (one actor joked that this play should have been called *Who's On Top*) and most recently *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*.

The **Winnepesaukee Playhouse** opened its new theater at 50 Reservoir Road, Meredith, early last summer inside what was once the Annalee Doll Complex. There was also a new amphitheater built in Warner, the much-anticipated, solar-powered stage that now sits behind **MainStreet BookEnds**. It opened at Warner's Fall Foliage Festival.

In the Monadnock region, the **Park Theatre building**, a historically significant, 19th-century wooden frame structure in the center of downtown Jaffrey, is slowly but surely on its way to restoration. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Community Facilities program approved a \$2 million construction loan to rebuild the theater, which won't begin until construction starts during the summer of 2014, according to an article in the Monadnock Ledger Transcript.

Not all theater restoration efforts were met with reward; the Exeter Theater Co. announced on its Facebook page in early November that it's suspending efforts to acquire and restore the IOKA theater. The Acting Loft in Manchester also suspended its programming after 18 years. (The Majestic Theatre reached out to these students, families and performers, inviting them to participate in its own youth and teen programming.)

Theatrical risk-taking

In the Monadnock region, Mia Moravis, the press coordinator for the New Hampshire Theatre Awards, noticed a surge of **Shakespeare**, particularly during the summertime. (Around here there was the Nashua Theatre Guild's *The Merchant of Venice* and Theatre Under the Stars' *Romeo and Juliet*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Also, if we're going to include all of Shakespeare, we might as well note Saint Anselm College's Shakespeare sonnet-reading marathon, which was open to the public for the first time last April.)

But this year was also host to a number of shows that were “off the beaten path,” Moravis said, particularly within the state's community theater productions. She pinpointed the **Milford Area Players'** rendition of *Wit* starring Katie Collins and last weekend's *The Santaland Diaries* by the **Actors Circle Theatre**, a one-man show starring Scott Gardner as “Crumpet the Elf.” These shows contain very challenging roles that aren't always available to community theater actors.

“There are really good actors in the state's community theater crowd. ... Sometimes obligations in life mean that you have to work a full-time job or can't take the risks, financially, to pursue acting professionally, and so it's nice to see community theaters willing to take risks like that, to give these chances to community theater actors,” Moravis said in a phone interview last week. Producing any big, new or challenging show is always risky for a community theater production, as you don't always know if you'll get your money back in ticket sales, and you don't always know if you'll be able to fill the roles. (But in all of these cases, they did.)

Among noteworthy performances, Frasca mentioned the Nashua Actors-ingers' rendition of *Les Misérables* last November, which was “finally” released

Five things to look forward to in 2014:

1. The New Hampshire Theatre Awards:

This year they're on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m., again at the Stockbridge Theatre. Ticket prices will be the same as last year, starting at \$20. Visit nhtheatreawards.org for details.

2. Studio 550's upcoming shows: Right now, the themed shows for 2013 include “Unseen in the City: Photography of Manchester from a Different Perspective,” which will be on view Jan. 11 through March 15; “Perfect Pitch: Art Inspired by Music,” which will be on view April 1 through May 3; and “SHIFT: Art Inspired by the Bicycle,” which will be on view May 5 through June 15. (You can still submit art to “Perfect Pitch” and “SHIFT,” visit 550arts.com.)

3. Everything at the Currier: There are a wealth of things to look forward to in 2014 at the Currier Museum of Art, including a Currier Art Center faculty exhibition (Jan. 4 through April 14); an exhibition showcasing installations by artist Andrew Witkin and others as part of the museum's “Contemporary Connections” series, for which the artist is working with collaborators like Tom McLaughlin from the New Hampshire Furniture Masters; the Art Center's 75th birthday, which it celebrates for a month, Feb. 1 through March 9; and art by both Romare Bearden and M.C. Escher.

4. The New Hampshire Theatre Factory's “top secret show:” Even the name is intriguing! The company is scheduled to offer education classes taught by local and New York City professionals in early 2014, and, following that, a “top secret” performance is in the works for spring 2014, and theater training camp for summer 2014. These events are part of the nonprofit's “Jumpstart the Factory” series, which are held to build awareness, partnerships and funding for the company's first full season of operation, according to the event website.

5. SPANK! Harder: The Sequel: The “mommy porn” parody hit the Capitol Center for the Arts during its tour last year (twice! — once in February and again in June). Its sequel is at the Cap Center on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45. Visit ccanh.com, call 225-1111.

to community theater productions. This show, too, required fantastic actors, or at the very least, fantastic singers, which, he said, the company was able to acquire.

The Concord Community Players also took some risks with its production of *Spamalot* this fall, which was snagged “as soon as rights became available” to community theaters, said director Doug Schwarz at a rehearsal before the show’s production.

It was also the year that **theatre KAPOW!** performed numerous contemporary productions in traditional and nontraditional venues all across the southern part of the state, including the Stockbridge Theatre (*The Illusion* in March, its 24 Hour Play Festival in October), The Derryfield School (*The Burial at Thebes* in September), Studio 550 (*Circle Mirror Transformation*, December) and ongoing at the Currier Museum of Art, where company members perform as part of its playreading series.

A few other New Hampshire contemporary theatrical productions in 2013 were *Good People* by **M & M Productions**; *In-Laws, Outlaws and Other People (That Should be Shot)* by **Bedford Off-Broadway**; and *Shrek: The Musical* by Nashua’s Peacock Players.

Milestones and community-driven art

Monica Leap has been trying to demonstrate that art is not a spectator sport, but rather “an experience” that everyone can enjoy through Manchester’s **Studio 550**. The art center became a cultural hub in 2013; since she opened it December 2012, the space has made way for pottery classes, cultural dance/movement classes, date night events, art shows (with themes that involved flowers, cups, nature, etc.) and partnerships (with theatre KAPOW, the Manchester Food Co-op, B.R.I.N.G.I.T., Dancing Lion Chocolate, the Women’s Caucus for Art and more). She’s also the reason that you might have found red little clay monsters in and around the city last summer.

A couple of Nashua’s artistic leaders for 2013 were **Positive Street Art** co-founders Cecelia Ulibarri and Manny Ramirez. In 2013, the pair led the nonprofit’s efforts to change the face of urban street art. They led the community in painting the mural behind Dunkin’ Donuts by the railroad tracks and the one along Nashua’s Heritage Trail, and, at Nashua resident Sarah Roy’s suggestion, gave the Fields Grove Park an artistic makeover.

A few other visual art businesses reached milestones in 2013: the **Kimball Jenkins School of Art** in Concord turned 15 and the Greeley Park Art

Show in Nashua turned 60. Amy Sullivan, who started her **Sullivan Framing** business within East Colony Fine Art about nine years ago, moved into a larger space in Bedford and opened a gallery that has hosted shows themed around the New Hampshire coast, the holidays and Boston.

Music: a postponement, a birthday and milestones

The **Granite State Orchestra** faced some unexpected challenges this season, including a last-minute concert postponement due to a presidential visit and scheduling conflicts with other performing arts organizations. These challenges resulted in costly reschedulings and a considerable loss of income for the orchestra. The group ended its 19th season with a hefty financial shortage, which, as a result, caused the board of directors to postpone the orchestra’s 20th season, according to its website, until early 2014.

Meanwhile, the **New Hampshire Gay Men’s Chorus** celebrated its 15th birthday with a written history of the chorus by member Paul Cioto last spring, and more recently premiered its first female soloist in Sarah Chadwick, whose brother and father both perform in the chorus. **Opera New Hampshire** kicked off its 50th season by performing its first free, outdoor concert in Manchester last August, and similarly, **Symphony NH** performed its first free outdoor concert in 10 years at Holman Stadium.

And then there was social painting

Lots of social painting. Muse Paintbar and the Canvas Roadshow had just begun business at the time of last year’s “Year in Review,” but that was just the beginning of what would be an explosion of “paint night” and “paint and sip” bars.

Lots of southern New Hampshire restaurants would come to host social painting events, but in addition, 2013 saw an influx of more site-specific social painting businesses. The **Canvas Roadshow**, originally a traveling company, settled in River Road in Bedford; **Art With A Splash**, the “original” New Hampshire paint bar, opened a second location in Nashua early August; and not too far away, **Paint pARTy** opened in Windham.

Many local art businesses, seeing this trend, opted to offer similar classes. **Kimball Jenkins School of Art** offers “Colors and Cabernet,” Beck’s Arts Express began “Paint Party” offerings in August, and Steve Pascucci’s new business in Goffstown, **Art Made Easely**, offers a similar class, too. 🍷

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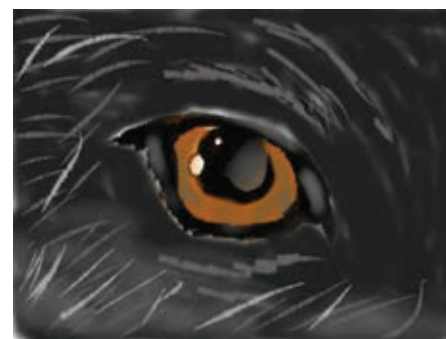


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ART

LOCAL — COLOR — NH art world news



"Wolf Eye" by 13-year-old Amaranthia Gittens-Jones. Courtesy image.

• **Don't miss out!** There are only a few more weeks that you can see "Africa Interweave: Textile Diasporas." The show at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, features 40 textiles, garments and other works of art that demonstrate the rich histories of textiles produced across Africa. It is on view through Jan. 12.

• **To learn grant writing for arts:** The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts offers a grant writing workshop that focuses on arts learning for youth on Wednesday, Jan. 8, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Kimball Jenkins Community Art School, 266 N. Main St., Concord, according to a recent press release. There's no charge to attend the workshop, which is open to teachers, artists, PTO/PTA leaders, parents, arts organizations and community arts leaders, though registration is required. It'll be led by State Arts Council arts education coordinator Catherine O'Brian and will cover grant criteria, guidelines and the basics of preparing a successful grant application. (The State Arts Council offers two grants that focus on reaching young people: Arts in Residency grants, which support artist residencies in schools with students K-12, and Youth Arts Projects grants, which fund out-of-school arts learning, according to the release.) Contact O'Brian at 271-0795 or visit nh.gov/nharts for details.

• **For warming up:** The Nashua Area Artists' Association hosts a Winter Warm-Up Art Exhibition on Sunday, Jan. 26, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the organization is looking for art, both by members (\$25 entry fee) and nonmembers (\$35 entry fee). The event,

according to the organization's website, is aimed at encouraging artists and art-lovers to "come out of winter hiding" and enjoy some fresh art, refreshments, music and the chance to win winter-inspired gift baskets. The show will be at the Hunt Memorial Building, 6 Main St., Nashua, and will be open to the public at no admission charge. Work on display includes oil and pastel paintings, drawings, mixed-media work, photography, digital art and fine jewelry. There's still space for artists interested in showing or selling; visit nashuaareaartistsassoc.org for details. The submission deadline is Jan. 12.

• **Art by New Hampshire youth:** Specifically, art by 13-year-old Amaranthia Gittens-Jones is on view at the NHTI College campus, 31 College Drive, Concord, Jan. 3 through Jan. 28. Much of the young artist's work, according to the Kimball Jenkins website, is influenced by her earlier years spent in Tokyo. She's currently on full scholarship at Kimball Jenkins in Concord. Donation of \$5 for each sale of her "Foxes" or "Wolves" series will go to the Kimball Jenkins Art School's Haley Rae Martin Fund. After this show, her work will be on view at Bagel Works, Feb. 1 through Feb. 28, in Concord. Her work can be viewed at Facebook.com/pages/Amasepiachan-Artworks.

— Kelly Sennott

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Art

Art events

• **PECHAKUCHA NIGHT NO. 17** "Home for the Holidays" at Portsmouth Gas Light Company, 64 Market St., Portsmouth, 430-8582, on Sun., Dec. 29, at 7 p.m. Presenters will share favorite holiday stories. Interested presenters contact Celeste Ladd, cladd@3Sarts.org. Visit 3arts.org, facebook.com/3Sartspace.

• **NOON YEAR'S EVE** at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, on Tues., Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tickets \$9-\$19 at the door. Visit currier.org.

• **GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP** for arts learning youth projects on Wed., Jan. 8, 9:30-2:30 p.m., at the Kimball Jenkins Community Art School, 266 N. Main St., Concord. No charge to attend workshop. By N.H. State Council on the Arts. Call 271-0795, email catherine.r.obrian@

dcr.nh.gov, visit nh.gov/nharts.

• **BECK'S ARTS EXPRESS** hosts an Open House event on Fri., Jan. 10, 5:30-7 p.m., at 491 Amherst St., Nashua. Snacks crafts, discount for class registration. Call 566-1393, visit artsexpressnh.com/class.html.

Exhibit openings

• **"MONOTYPE EXHIBIT: SINGULAR EXPRESSION"** on view now through Jan., monotypes by Annick Bouvron-Gromek, Bill Childs, Barbara Cowan, Pam Lawson and Doris Rice at Seacoast Artists Association Gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter, seacoastartist.org. Closing reception on Sat., Jan. 25, 2-4 p.m. Refreshments.

• **NASHUA AREA ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION** at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, through January and February. Oils, acrylics, pastels, watercolors, photographs, digital art. Visit nashualibrary.org, visit nh.gov/nharts.

brary.org/directions.htm.

• **"EXPLORING THE CURRIER INSIDE OUT: ANDREW WITKIN"** exhibit Jan. 11 through May 11 at Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, currier.org. Part of Contemporary Connections.

• **"ART AND BLOOM"** presented by McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord, Jan. 23 through Jan. 25. Reception on Thurs., Jan. 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Presented by Concord Garden Club, featuring floral arrangements inspired by artwork.

In the galleries

• **"HOME, SCHOOL, AND STUDIO: WOMEN ARTISTS AND NEW HAMPSHIRE"** at the New Hampshire Historical Society Museum, 6 Eagle Square, Concord, through Dec. 31. Admission \$5.50 for adults, \$3 for children. Visit nhhistory.org or call 228-6688.

CURTAIN

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Notes from the theater scene

• **Don't miss anything:** Not Your Mom's Musical Theater is again presenting a concert series, *Something Wonderful I Missed*, this time centering around the musicals of 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994 and 2014. The company hosts auditions on Monday, Jan. 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and Tuesday, Jan. 7, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Appletree Business Services, 15 Londonderry Road, Londonderry. The series kicks off on Feb. 16, and the theater group is looking for strong singers and emcees for this season. (Following shows are on Sunday, May 25, at 4 p.m.; Sunday, July 13, at 4 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 28 at 4 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 2, at 4 p.m., all of which will be performed at the Derry Opera House.) Auditioners, who can try for one or all shows, should prepare two memorized, contrasting sections from musical theater (32 bars max each) that show the variety of styles they're capable of. (They should bring a resume and sheet music if possible, too.) Email notyourmoms@gmail.com, visit notyourmomsmusicaltheater.com.

• **Another Majestic New Year's event:** The Majestic Theatre again offers a two-in-one dinner theater event at the Chateau Event Center, 201 Hanover St., Manchester, on Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 7 p.m., and Wednesday, Jan. 1, at noon. The show: *Murder at the Masquerade*. It centers around wealthy millionaire Walter Scottsdale, whose annual masquerade party turns into an event of



Peak Island Puppets. Courtesy photo.

mayhem, murder and mistaken identity. The criminal could be anyone among the party's cast of characters (including Romeo, Juliet, Little Orphan Annie and the Lone Ranger). But best of all, each ticket comes with food; there's a chicken cordon bleu dinner with salad and cheesecake dessert on Tuesday evening (\$45), and on Wednesday, ticketholders can enjoy a breakfast buffet (\$25). Door prizes will be drawn as part of each admission ticket, and while costumes are optional, there will be prizes for the best ones. Call 669-7469 or visit majestictheatre.net for details.

• **For more theater after Christmas:** Pontine Theatre presents *The Rudder Holiday Planner: A Celebration of the Jewish Holidays* on Thursday, Dec. 26, at 4:30 p.m., at the West End Studio Theater, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. It's a show by the Portland-based Peak Island Puppets, a 50-minute play directed by Julie Goell and featuring the puppetry of David Handwerker and Stephanie Eliot. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased in advance online at pontine.org or at the door one half hour before showtime. Email info@pontine.org, call 436-6660. — *Kelly Sennott*

• **"THE CREATIVE MIND APPLIED"** commercial art exhibit at the Gallery at 100 Market St., Portsmouth, Oct. 25 through Jan. 3. Show features two separate "blueprints" that illustrate multi stages of a project.

• **RANDY KNOWLES** art on display at East Colony Fine Art, 55 S. Commercial St., Manchester, 621-7400, through Dec. 28.

• **"COMING OF AGE: NEW ENGLAND ARTISTS UNDER 30"** on view at the New Hampshire Institute of Art/ Sharon Arts Center Exhibition Gallery at 30 Grove St., Peterborough, Nov. 1 through Dec. 28. Visit sharonarts.org, call 914-7676.

• **"WINTER LIGHTS: GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS"** exhibit at The Loading Dock Gallery, 122 W. Ave., Lowell, 978-656-1687, Nov. 29 through Dec. 29. Visit theloadingdock-gallery.com.

• **"IMAGINE"** works by Elaine Farmer and Michael James

Toomy on view at Coffeeberries, 4 Orchard View, Londonderry, Nov. 2 through Dec. 31.

• **HOLIDAY SMALL WORKS SHOW** at Lucy's Art Emporium, LLC, 303 Central Ave., Dover, lucycartemporium.com, Nov. 19 through Dec. 30.

• **PHOTOGRAPHERS FORUM CAMERA CLUB** exhibit at the community room at the Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson, through December.

• **JIN RWEI** art on display at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, during December. Call 589-4610, email carol.eyman@nashua.library.org.

• **KATE LEMAY** presents "The Free-Time Project" at The Studio, 50 Canal St., Laconia, on view through December. Call 455-8008.

• **STUDIO 550 CUP SHOW & SALE** on view at Studio 550, 550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, on view Nov. 9 through Jan. 8. Visit 550arts.com, email info@550arts.com.

• **WOMEN'S CAUCUS FOR ART 6X6 PANEL SHOW** on view Nov. 9 through Jan. 8 at Studio 550, 550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, info@550arts.com, 550arts.com.

• **"FALL INTO WINTER '13"** at The Gallery at 100 Market St., Portsmouth, Oct. 25 through Jan. 18. First and second floors.

• **BRUCE MCCOLL AND MATT BROWN** exhibit at Labelle Winery, Amherst, through Jan. 2014. Call 672-9898, email michelle@labellewinerynh.com.

• **MARTHA BOSCO** shows "A Little Bit of Everything" at the Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, through mid-January. Email marthabosco2@gmail.com.

• **BRUSH ART GALLERY'S ANNUAL MEMBERS' SHOW** with the New England Sculptors Association through Jan. 11 at The Brush Gallery, 256 Market St., Lowell, 978-459-7819.

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From Jacob Marley's POV

Filling in the blanks of *A Christmas Carol*



Christopher DuBois, Aaron Compagna, Josh Dennis
and Toby Paul perform in *Marley's Christmas Carol*.
Courtesy photo.

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

"Scrooge? I have to redeem old
Scrooge? The one man I knew who was
worse than I was? Impossible!"

Needless to say, when Jacob Mar-
ley discovers that he must help redeem
Ebenezer Scrooge to save his own soul
in *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*, he
doesn't react well. The play, written by
Tom Mula, tells the side of *A Christmas
Carol* you didn't see — kind of like what
Wicked is for *The Wizard of Oz*, except
that there's no yellow brick road. Instead,
audiences will travel "from the Jaws of
Death" to the "Mouth of Hell," as Tom
Mula described on his website, to see
Jacob Marley's behind-the-scenes effort.

Members of the Artists' Collective The-
atre in Nashua opted to produce Mula's
twist on Dickens because everyone likes
A Christmas Carol, but this story manages
to capture those characters without being
the same as the much-performed classic.
The show occurs in the days after Christ-
mas and New Year's at the Hunt Building
in Nashua.

"Most of us know the basic storyline
of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Car-
ol*. But this show provides the rest of the
story. Where did these ghosts come from?
And why did they decide Scrooge needed
to be saved? Why did Marley show up at
Scrooge's house as a door knocker?" said
Christopher DuBois, who plays Bogle,
Marley's spiritual advisor. "It takes his
holiday story and gives us a little more."

And, like the original, *Jacob Marley's
Christmas Carol* is a warm, family-friend-
ly holiday show, even if part of it does
take place in Hell.

"In *A Christmas Carol*, you just assume
that there's no hope for Jacob Marley.
The major difference here is that there is
— he can sort of be saved," said Aaron
Compagna, who plays Jacob Marley, in a
phone interview. "It also has this Christ-
mas feeling to it. It's a very sweet story."

The company also chose the play
because of the way it's written, said Leah

Belanger, founding ACT member and
show director. It's told like a narrated
story.

"When you're a kid and a teacher reads
a book in front of you, you're imagin-
ing the story. That's kind of like this,"
Belanger said.

Mula's writing, specifically, poses an
interesting challenge for actors because
there's no one designated "narrator."

"You're narrating and acting at the
same time," Compagna said. "You're act-
ing in your character what happened in
past tense, while at the same time, you're
telling the story in present tense. ... It's
something I've never done before."

There are no costume changes, and
each actor also plays more than one part,
which in addition to the play's narration,
puts a bit of pressure on the actors' need
to define each character solely through
skill. Compagna, for instance, has one
scene in which, over two minutes' time,
he needs to transform from a hunchbacked
man into a small cockney boy, then into
an English teenager, and then back into an
old man again.

"It's only pressure to know the play
really well," Compagna said. The trick,
he said, is to not make those characters
exaggerated, but rather, make the change
between characters very sharp.

The show's location, Belanger said,
helps with the storytelling, too.

"The Hunt Building gives the theater-
goer a chance to really be involved in the
show. You're not right up on stage, but
you're right next to it," she said.

She hopes the production's timing will
enable more people to come see it.

"It shows the weekend after Christmas
and after New Year's. There's a lot going
on before Christmas — Christmas parties,
traveling, shopping, and there's a mil-
lion other shows. I think that, especially
when Christmas falls on a Wednesday, we
still feel festive. We thought it was a nice
opportunity to extend the holiday season,
without having to worry about shopping
and other conflicts," Belanger said.

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol

Where: Hunt Building, 6 Main St.,
Nashua

When: Thursday, Dec. 26, at 8 p.m.
(pay-what-you-can preview); Friday,
Dec. 27, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 28, at
8 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 2, at 8 p.m.; Fri-
day, Jan. 3, at 8 p.m.; and Saturday, Jan.
4, at 8 p.m.

Admission: The preview night on Dec.
26 is "pay-what-you-can," and the rest of
the tickets are \$20. It's a family-friend-
ly show.

Contact: act-theatre.org, 759-0167

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DARKNESS EXPLORATION

The first event of the "Bach's Lunch Series" after the holiday season is on Thursday, Jan. 2, from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. at the Concord Community Music School Recital Hall, 23 Wall St., downtown Concord. On this day, Margaret Fletcher will present a lecture, "Exploring the Darkness: A Meditative Listening Guide."

A concert featuring musicians Gregg Pauley and Mark Andrew Cleveland follows on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 12:10 p.m., also at the Music School Recital Hall. They'll perform selections of Schubert's "Die Winterreise," which, as described in the press release, will take audiences on a "lyrical, musical trip to the winter darkness." Both events are free. (Bring a bagged lunch!) Call 228-1196 or visit ccmusicschool.com. Pictured, Margaret Fletcher. Courtesy photo.

TEXTILE DIASPORAS on view at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, through Jan. 12.

• **NICK McCARTHY-DONOVAN** shows "Big Wild Cats of Africa; Lions, Leopards and Cheetahs" and "Wolves, Call of the Wild" at Mogi's Hair Salon & Art Gallery, 383 Dunstable Road, Nashua, through Jan.

• **MARY SWANSON** artwork on display at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, through Jan. 6. Landscapes, florals, portraits, houses, abstracts.

• **"SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE"** art show with every size, every price, every style, at Art 3 Gallery, 44 W. Brook St., Manchester, on view through Jan. 31.

Theater

• **LEGENDS: THE MUSIC OF JUDY GARLAND** part of Good Theater on Tour on Fri., Dec. 27, at 8 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 28, at 8 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 29, at 2 p.m., at Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, 436-8123, playerring.org. Tickets \$15.

• **WEST-FEST: NEW VAUDEVILLE FESTIVAL** at the Ponte Theatre, West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, on Thurs., Dec. 26, a 2 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 27, at 2 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 28, at 2 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 29, at 2 p.m.; and Mon., Dec. 30, at 2 p.m. Tickets \$15, visit pontine.org, call 436-6660.

• **TUCKERMANS AT 9** perform on Tues., Dec. 31, at 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. at Village Players Theater, 51 Glendon St., Wolfeboro, admission by First Night admission. Visit tuckermansat9.com, facebook.com/TuckermansAt9.

• **THE DEVIL'S MUSIC: THE LIFE AND BLUES OF BESSIE SMITH** shows at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 132 Warren St., Lowell, Mass., 978-

654-7550, mrt.org, runs Jan. 9 through Feb. 2. Tickets start at \$20.

• **AMERICAN DREAM** playreading by theatre KAPOW! on Sun., Jan. 12, at 2 p.m., at Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. In relation to Currier's exhibition, "Signs from the Sixties: Robert Indiana's 'Decade.'" Free to attend with museum admission, \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, \$9 students. Visit tkapow.com.

• **TIMBER** by Cirque Alfonse, Acadian music, juggling axes, acrobatic stunts, at Dana Center for the Humanities, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, on Sat., Jan. 25, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$33.75. Call 641-7700, email dana@anselm.edu.

• **RHYTHM OF THE DANCE** performance by the National Dance Theatre of Ireland on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m., at Dana Center for the Humanities, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester. Tickets \$33.75. Call 641-7700, email dana@anselm.edu.

• **EQUALLY DIVIDED** shows at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 132 Warren St., Lowell, Mass., 978-654-7550, mrt.org, Feb. 13 through March 9. Tickets start at \$20.

• **SPANK! HARDER: THE SEQUEL** at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, on Sun., Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$45 all seats. Call 225-1111, visit ccanh.com.

• **LE PETIT PRINCE** by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth, Jan. 10 through Jan. 26. Tickets \$24. Call 431-6644, ext. 5, or email reservations@nhtheatreproject.org.

• **THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK MUSICAL** performed by the Rochester Opera House Productions at the Rochester Opera House, City Hall, 31 Wakefield St., Roches-

ter, Jan. 16 through Feb. 2. Tickets \$16-\$20. Call 335-1992.

Auditions/open calls

• **NOT YOUR MOM'S: SOMETHING WONDERFUL I MISSED** auditions on Mon., Jan. 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m., and Tues., Jan. 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Appletree Business Services, 15 Londonderry Road, Londonderry. Call 576-9668, visit notyourmomsmusicaltheater.com.

Classical

• **DISCOVER THURSDAYS** at Discover Portsmouth Center, 10 Middle St., Portsmouth, 436-8433, portsmouthhistory.org, featuring The Aeterna Trio on Thurs., Dec. 26, at 3 p.m. Tickets \$12.

• **CHRIS KLAXTON** performs Thurs., Dec. 26, at 9 p.m., at Fury's Publick House, 1 Washington St., Dover (free).

• **BACH'S LUNCH LECTURE SERIES** at the Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord, Thursdays 12:10-12:50 p.m., free, bring bag lunch. Lecture by Margaret Fletcher on Thurs., Jan. 2; Schubert music concert on Thurs., Jan. 9, by Gregg Pauley and Mark Andrew Cleveland. Call 228-1196, visit ccmusic-school.org.

• **CONCORD COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL STUDENT RECITAL** on Fri., Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. CCMS students of all ages perform instrumental and vocal selections, at 23 Wall St., Concord. Call 228-1196, visit ccmusicschool.org. Free.

• **UNH DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC FACULTY CONCERT SERIES** on Sat., Jan. 18, at 2 p.m., at Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Free. Margaret Herlehy, Janet Polk and Arlene Kies present program of Beethoven and Christopher Kies.



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By Kaitlin Joseph
kjoseph@hippopress.com

Celebrating New Year's Eve doesn't have to mean staying up till midnight. Check out some of the New Year's Eve events going on.

Currier Museum of Art

Noon Year's Eve

Where: 150 Ash St., Manchester
When: Tuesday, Dec. 31, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (the party starts at 10 a.m. for members)

Cost: Tickets include all performances and activities. Ticket prices are \$15 in advance and \$19 at the door for adults; children ages 13 to 17 will pay \$10 or \$14 at the door; and ages 1 to 12 will pay \$5 or \$9 at the door.

Call: 669-6144

Visit: currier.org

Noon Year's Eve brought in about 700 people last year at the Currier Museum of Art. This year, families will be able to ring in 2014 with bubble wrap fireworks and a balloon drop from the ceiling.

"There will always be adult parties at night, but with Noon Year's Eve, kids get to have their fun too. It's earlier in the day and they can make hundreds of new friends," said Steve Konick, director of PR and marketing for the Currier Museum of Art.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. there will be an ice carving demonstration by Ice Breakers, a scavenger

hunt throughout the gallery, photo portraits, face painting and crafts.

The Winter Garden Cafe will offer lunch with sparkling cider or hot cocoa. The cafe will have a kids' menu. The cafe will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The magic of David Hall and live music by guitarist John Chouinard will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A countdown to New Year's will start at 2:50 p.m.

"I hope everyone sees the Currier as a fun place to visit and an important part of the community, both socially and culturally," Konick said. "Museums don't always have reputations as places where kids can have fun. The staff at the Currier loves to create fun, family-oriented programs that help kids explore their inner artist, or just get a sense of the beauty in the world around them. If Noon Year's Eve is their ticket to exploring how cool art can be, I'm all for it."

Children's Museum of New Hampshire

New Year's Eve Celebration

Where: 6 Washington St., Dover

When: Tuesday, Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost: \$9 for adults and children, \$8 for seniors and free for children under 1 year old; free for Children's Museum members

Call: 742-2002

Visit: childrens-museum.org

For more than 20 years, the Children's Museum has been host-

ing its daytime New Year's Eve celebration.

"For years, it has been the only celebration of its kind in New Hampshire," said Heidi Duncanson, marketing director for the museum. "Families love it because it's a fun daytime event, so they can celebrate New Year's Eve with their kids and then still have a New Year's Eve out for themselves if they choose."

When families walk in the door, everyone gets a party horn or a noisemaker for the evening. Everyone is encouraged to make a crazy party hat.

"We put out all kinds of holiday wrapping paper, sparkly garland, ribbons and tape, and each person can fashion their own hat," Duncanson said. "No two are ever the same and many are quite creative."

The event will feature a glittering ball drop with three countdowns to midnight, at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Those interested can write New Year's wishes on colored paper and launch them from 30-foot towers from the Build It, Fly It exhibit during midnight countdown.

"For families, it's a great way to end the old year and start a new year," Duncanson said. "Many families come year after year because it's become part of their holiday season tradition."

Pats Peak

New Year's Eve Family

Celebration

Where: 686 Flanders Road, Henniker

When: Tuesday, Dec. 31, 3 p.m. to midnight

Cost: Party and skiing tickets are \$90 for adults and \$50 for juniors and seniors. Party-only tickets are \$70 for adults and \$35 for juniors and seniors. Skiing only is \$38 for adults, juniors and seniors, and tubing is \$20.

Call: 428-3245

Visit: patspeak.com

Bring in the new year with snowboarding, skiing and fireworks at Pats Peak.

Food will be provided by Pats Peak gourmet chef Guy Pelletier, American Bistro, Mama Mia, That's Italian and Chinese New Year.



The Balloon Drop at last year's Noon Year's Eve event at the Currier Museum of Art. Courtesy photo.

The slopes for skiing, snowboarding and tubing will run from 3 to 10 p.m., and the New Year's party will start at 6 p.m. There will be party favors, a Champagne toast, dancing, a comedy show, live music, raffle prizes and fireworks at midnight.

Guests can choose to purchase a party and skiing ticket, which allows access to every activity; a party-only ticket; a skiing-only ticket or a tubing-only ticket. Prices do not include rental equipment. There is childcare available for an additional fee. Reservations are required and need to be made 24 hours in advance.

Gunstock

Gunstock Rocks New Year's

Eve

Where: 719 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, Gunstock

When: Tuesday, Dec. 31, 4 p.m. to midnight

Cost: \$55 for adults and \$40 for children and seniors

Call: 293-4341

Visit: gunstock.com

Gunstock Rocks New Year's Eve will have activities for all ages on New Year's Eve day, right up until midnight. The mountain will be open for skiing, snowboarding and tubing from 4 to 11:30 p.m. At midnight, there will be fireworks over the mountain to ring in the new year.

Anyone who has a night lift ticket, a primetime lift ticket or a season

pass will be able to go on a horse-drawn carriage ride, go for an hour of tubing on Thrill Hill, go on a snowshoe tour and even learn skiing and riding tips from the Learning Center Pros.

Throughout the night there will also be face painting, roaming jugglers, s'mores by the fire pit and some live music by Nobody's Fault inside the main lodge. Outside, DJ Christine will provide music.

The Cobble Mountain Food Court, Powder Keg Pub and the Pistol Pub will all be open until midnight to serve.

Cowabunga's

Open Gym Day

Where: 1328 Hooksett Road, Hooksett

When: Tuesday, Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per child, walking to 18. Adults will get in free with their paying child.

Call: 625-8008

Visit: cowabunga.com

Bring your kids to play at Cowabunga's on New Year's Eve for open gym day. The gym will be open from 10 to 4 p.m. for families who want to spend some time jumping around at the inflatable playground. Families can bring their own nut-free food to eat in the lobby or buy refreshments there. 🍌



Kids counting down to New Year's Eve at the Children's Museum. Courtesy photo.

KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for the weekend

Make something

The Hollis Public Library (2 Monument Square, Hollis, 465-7721, hollislibrary.org) will have a **craft-making and cookie-icing** event on Saturday, Dec. 28, at 6 p.m. There is no registration required, and children ages 3 and up are welcome.

The Muse Paintbar (42 Hanover St., Manchester, 421-6500, musepaintbar.com) will have a **painting event** on Thursday, Dec. 26, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. to paint Frosty the snowman in a winter scene. The cost is \$35. There's another family painting event on Saturday, Dec. 28, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. where kids can paint Frosty the Roaster (he's standing next to a hot fire!), but at the moment it's sold out; Muse is accepting waitlist requests. The cost is \$29.

Day camps

The Children's Museum of NH (6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org) will have a **Maker Camp** on Friday, Dec. 27, from 9 to 2 p.m. Kids will be able to create mini vibrating robots, LED gadgets and special contraptions for an Egg Drop experiment. There will also be projects in fiber arts, construction with real tools and electronics. Please bring a nut-free lunch. \$50 for the day camp. Registration is required.

The Culinary Playground (16 Derry St., Derry) is hosting a **New Year's Nibbles** day camp Monday, Dec. 30, from 10 a.m. to noon, where campers will make quiche, pretzels and breakfast strata to bring home. It's for ages 7 and up. Cost is \$55. Call 339-1664 or email kristen@culinary-playground.com.

See a show

Gail Fisher's All Dog Gym (505 Sheffield Road, Manchester, 669-4644, alldogsgym.com) will be hosting a **CPE Agility trial for dogs** to test out the course and do their jumps and tricks on Saturday, Dec. 28. The event is running all day long and drop-in visitors are free to observe the dogs doing their tricks.

The **Big Top Circus Extravaganza** is coming to the Flying Monkey Movie House and Performance Center (39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com) on Saturday, Dec. 28, at 6:30 p.m. The professional artists are from Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Circus Smirkus, L'École Nationale de Cirque, Bindelstiff and Seven Fingers. The show will feature ground acts, aerial displays and partner acts, with a healthy dose of comedy mixed in. Admission is \$25 for adults and \$20 for kids.

The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Drive, Concord, 271-7827, starhop.com) will have a planetarium show on Saturday, Dec. 28, at noon. **Attack of the Space Pirates** will show pirates fighting for impressive technology that threatens the galaxy to use it for their own power. There will also be another showing on Sunday, Dec. 29, at noon. General admission to the center is \$10 for adults, \$7 children ages 3 to 12 and \$9 children ages 13 and up. Tickets to the planetarium show cost an additional \$5 per person.

The Nashua Public Library (2 Court Street, Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org) will have a showing of the classic **Mary Poppins** on Saturday, Dec. 28, at 2 p.m.

Get outside

Go **snow tubing** at Pats Peak (Flaunders Road, Henniker, 428-3245, patspeak.com) this weekend. Weekend hours are Friday, Dec. 28, from 3 to 9 p.m., Saturday Dec. 29, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for a 2-hour session or \$20 for a 4-hour session. ☺

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IN/OUT THE GARDENING GUY

In with the new

What worked this year and what didn't

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

Snow has come. The leaves are raked. The garden is as put to bed as it's going to get. It's a good time to think about what worked this year and what didn't.

The very last shrub that I planted this year was, I have to admit, an impulse buy: scarlet beauty sweetspire (*Itea virginica* 'Morton'). I was at E.C. Brown's Nursery in Thetford, Vt., (ecbrownnursery.com) in mid-November to get a small tree for a special project. And there by the driveway was a shrub that still had its leaves, and they were bright red! I mean as red as burning bush (*Euonymus elata*) — that shrub, loved by many but now banned in most states, that turns a brilliant red in fall. It called to me in a soft voice, "I need a home before winter." So it came home.

According to the tag, it is a medium growing spreading deciduous broadleaf shrub with a height of 3 to 4 feet that spreads 2 to 4 feet. Before I decided on it, I checked my favorite plant reference text, Michael Dirr's *Guide to Woody Landscape Plants*. It told me that it is hardy to Zone 5, safely surviving winters of minus 20 degrees. The plant tag said it was hardy to Zone 4, which means it will survive 30 below zero.

Dirr's book also described the flowers as white, lightly fragrant and about half an inch in diameter, blooming in early summer. He noted that given full sun and plenty of moisture the flowering can be "staggeringly beautiful." That sounded good to me, especially since the leaves were dramatic in their fall colors, and I have a nice wet spot near my stream. I am always leery of plants that spread by root, so I'll keep an eye on this one to be sure it doesn't take over.

Another nice shrub I got in 2012 that had great fall foliage is the "redbud hazel" (*Disanthus cercidifolius*). Not a redbud or a hazel, this shrub has leaves that look like redbud leaves. The leaves turn a brilliant red early in the fall, with hints of orange and purple. I planted mine in 2012 and it overwintered nicely but did not bloom this year. Though as I read Dirr's book, I now notice that the flowers are "non-showy" half-inch diameter dark purple flowers that appear in October. So maybe there were a few, and I missed them in among the red foliage.

Rebdu hazel plants need light to moderate shade, along with deep moist soil that is rich in organic matter and protection from the wind. Mine is suitably planted, and has survived minus 20 degrees. They can grow 6 to 10 feet tall, though mine did not show rapid growth in its first year.

Another nice shrub that I planted in 2012 has many names: Carolina allspice, common



Rebdu hazel. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

sweetbush, sweet Bettie, spicebush and my favorite, sweet bubbly. That's why plant geeks like me prefer the Latin name: *Calycanthus floridus*. Don't be intimidated; just pronounce every letter; say it with gusto and everyone will think know what you are talking about.

Sweet bubbly is, according to the literature, very adaptable: it will grow in sun or shade, acid or alkaline soil. But it does like rich, moist soil and I have plenty of that. I originally planted it in full sun, but the leaves scorched a little that first summer. I assumed that since I had kept it in the pot in a shady spot for a month or more, the scorching was just a reaction to the sudden shift to full sun. But it scorched again this year, so this fall I moved it to light shade near a big old wild apple tree.

The flowers of *Calycanthus* are striking: deep maroon up to 2 inches across and they can be deliciously fragrant. But not all varieties are fragrant, so if the scent is important to you, buy in early summer when the blossoms are on the plants at the nursery. Some, I have read, may even smell like vinegar. Mine do not have a noticeable fragrance.

I have seen a *Calycanthus* that was 8 feet tall in Woodstock, Vt., but it was clearly a plant that had been around a long time. Mine has not grown much in the two years I've had it. It can spread 6 to 12 feet, and the two specimens I see regularly seem more interested in growing sideways than getting tall.

The only other woody plants I installed this year were a couple of striped or moose maples (*Acer pennsylvanicum*). This is a small understory tree that I notice in the woods in winter — the bark turns a bright, light green with dark stripes. It is rarely sold in plant nurseries, so grab one if you see it for sale. It is said to grow even in terrible soil conditions, but likes moisture and acidic soil.

We can't plant anything now, but we can plan and dream.

Henry Homeyer is a gardening teacher, coach and public speaker. Reach him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net or P.O. Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746. 🍂

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Dear Donna,
Please try to help me figure this out if you can. I have several of these spoons from my parents. They traveled a lot and must have collected one from everywhere they went and then some.

Now I have the pleasure of trying to figure out what to do with them. Is there a value to them or people who collect them? I read your column all the time and said, 'She should be the one who can help.' I hope so.

Elaine from Concord



Dear Elaine,
It's tough to tell for sure but I think I can give you enough information to help out somewhat. You're right saying they collected them from travel destinations but also it was a common collection to have so other family members or friends might have added to their collection. It seems when you see any spoon collections there are at least a few dozen spoons.

Collector spoons individually, if they are a plated material rather than sterling silver, run about \$3 each (to a collector maybe). If some of them are marked on the back side of the spoon "sterling" (not just the word "silver"), then these would be more valuable.

Now some people look for specific ones that were not mass produced. The normal ones with states, monuments, special events, actors, etc. were so mass produced that they have lit-

tle value.

So I guess what I would do is look at them all individually and see if any stick out to you. Also check to see if they are sterling. I would say whatever you can sell them for is really what they are worth to someone.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser and instructor. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or email her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).



NEW YEAR FUN

Headliners Comedy Club at the Radisson Hotel (700 Elm St., Manchester, 988-3673, newyearseveevents.com) will host a **New Year's Eve party** on Tuesday, Dec. 31, from 6:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. There will be a dinner, Dueling Pianos, dancing and a Champagne toast. Tickets for the comedy show only are \$30 per person. Tickets for the gala, dueling piano, dinner and dancing are \$85 each, and tickets for an overnight, dinner, Dueling Pianos and dancing package are \$289 per couple.

Arena Sports Bar and Nightclub (53 High St., Nashua, nicole@arenanh.com, arenanh.com) will have a **New Year's Eve dinner and comedy show** on Tuesday, Dec. 31, from 6:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are \$50 per couple, \$30 for singles and \$10 for club only.

Brookline Event Center (32 Proctor Hill Road, Brookline, 673-4474, brooklineeventcenter.com) will have a **New Year's Eve party** on Tuesday, Dec. 31, from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. There will be a comedy show, champagne toast and dinner. Tickets in advance are \$35 and tickets at the door are \$45.

Hampton Beach State Park (227-8717, nhstateparks.org) will host a **New Year's Eve open house** at Seashell Oceanfront Pavilion (160 Ocean Boulevard, Hampton) on Tuesday, Dec. 31, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. There will be refreshments and fireworks at 8 p.m.

Little Harbor Elementary School (50 Clough Dr., Portsmouth, 436-2014 x23) will host the Great Bay Services third annual **New Year's Resolution 5K** on Wednesday, Jan. 1, at 11 a.m.

The Temple Town Hall (Route 45, Temple, 429-8879) will host the **Peanut Butter Chip Chase 5K** on Wednesday, Jan. 1, at noon. Registration is \$10 to \$12 online at g2racereg.webconnex.com/pbcc5k2014.

Londonderry High School (295 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 512-1976, millenniumrunning.com/millenniummile) will host the **Millennium Mile road race** on Wednesday, Jan. 1, at 2 p.m. Registration is \$15 to \$20.

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Regular maintenance can prevent problems before they start



Dear Tom and Ray:

When driving down the freeway, I heard a scraping sound, shortly followed by my car slowing down, no matter how hard I pushed on the gas. I barely made it to the service road. When the tow truck driver came, he noticed green liquid (coolant) leaking out. The mechanic towed the car and said my water pump had frozen, and that broke my timing belt. He said it was the first time he had ever seen it, and he doesn't know of a way I could have avoided it. I need to know if it was something I did that I can avoid doing in the future. — Joanna

TOM: You don't tell us what kind of car you drive, but I'm guessing it's something

with a non-interference engine. Cars with interference-style engines get ruined when their timing belts break. It sounds like you were lucky and you avoided that grisly fate.

RAY: The vast majority of manufacturers recommend that you change your car's timing belt after a certain number of miles — 60,000 miles used to be common. Now lots of manufacturers suggest 90,000.

TOM: If you don't change the timing belt, it can break on its own due to age and use. But on almost every car we see, the timing belt also runs the water pump (which circulates coolant in the engine). In other words, the timing belt goes around a water-pump pulley, and as the belt turns, it makes the water pump's impeller spin. But if the water pump fails and seizes up, like yours did, it takes the timing belt with it.

RAY: So to prevent this in the future, you have to do a better job of maintaining your car, Joanna.

TOM: For instance, it's possible your water pump was failing and you just didn't notice the horrible growling sound coming from your engine compartment. Or you don't see a mechanic regularly, so no one else had a chance to notice it.

RAY: Or maybe you were a good car owner, and you had your timing belt changed

when it was supposed to be, but to save a little money, you or your mechanic didn't change the water pump at the same time. That's penny-wise and thousand-dollar foolish, in our opinion.

TOM: Yeah. We'd never change a customer's timing belt without changing the water pump, too, for the very reason that caused you to write to us — that's what can happen. And then they come back and blame us for it!

RAY: Also, we tend to use factory water pumps rather than aftermarket pumps for this repair, because the risks, if the water pump fails, are so severe.

TOM: So, how do you prevent this in the future? Get better about your regular maintenance. Find a mechanic you trust (if you don't already have one, find one at the Mechanics Files at cartalk.com). And take your car in on a regular basis. Even if it's just for an oil-and-filter change every six months, at least someone has a chance to notice when something is going terribly wrong.

Dear Tom and Ray:

How does one change the key fob battery in a 2003 Volkswagen Jetta Sportwagen TDI? Does the remote require a special process in order to be recognized by the Jetta after you're done? — DeWayne

RAY: You probably have the old-style, "switchblade" key fob with a blue VW logo and three buttons on it (lock, unlock and trunk).

TOM: Assuming that's the one you've got, all you do is press the button so the key springs out. Then turn it on its side. You should see a small groove about halfway up the side. Take a small flat-head screwdriver, insert the end in there and gently twist to pop open the two halves of the remote. Then pull them apart.

RAY: The section with the key will come off, and you'll see that there's nothing in it, other than the key. ... Take the other half of the remote and, with your hands, separate the front from the back. One half will house the circuitboard, and the other half will contain the battery.

TOM: Pop the battery out gently with your screwdriver, and push in your replacement CR2032, 3-volt battery (positive end down), which you can get at any hardware or even drugstore.

RAY: Then snap the whole thing back together. It should require no reprogramming whatsoever.

TOM: If you bought a new remotem it would have to be matched up to your car.

Got a question about cars? Visit cartalk.com.

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- **Session IV: Building a Strategic and Sustainable Action Plan**
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IN/OUT

21+ sports

New Hampshire club for adults only



A winning team of NH Sports and Social Club. Courtesy photo.

By Kaitlin Joseph
kjoseph@hippopress.com

So you haven't bowled since your days of pre-teen group dates or played dodgeball since elementary school — but you kind of want to. Oh, and you also want to drink beer and eat chicken wings afterward with a bunch of people you may or may not know.

Enter New Hampshire Sports and Social Club.

The club formed in 2006 for adults 21 and older who want to play league sports like volleyball, softball and soccer, either for pure recreational entertainment or for a little competition.

"It's grown since then a lot," said Elijah Quimby, the club's general manager. "It's such a good way to meet people. It's pretty amazing. You'll get a team that knows nothing about each other, and by the end they've really bonded playing the sport."

Players are able to sign up for leagues individually, with a few friends or with an entire team. Club organizers will place you on a team if you register without one. They reserve different facilities in the area to host the games.

"It's a good way to really get out there and develop a bond and some good friendships," Quimby said.

Quimby noted that people and teams come back year after year to play. The most popular leagues for the winter season include dodgeball, volleyball and floor hockey. He said the leagues are based on what has been popular in the past and what participants enjoy, though the club is open to suggestions for a new league. Through-

out the year the club currently offers volleyball, kickball, dodgeball, basketball, football, hockey, ultimate frisbee, bowling and softball.

Registration is open now in Manchester for volleyball, dodgeball, basketball, indoor soccer, softball and bowling. Sports leagues open in Nashua are volleyball, bowling, basketball and dodgeball. Merrimack has spots available for its floor hockey leagues. The season lasts about eight to 11 weeks. It is recommended that people sign up early, as the spots always fill up fast.

"I think that there's people looking for competition. People kind of lose that aspect as they get older, and to be able to come out and play a sport, that's something that people really enjoy," Quimby said. "It's a fun way to spend an evening."

After each game, all players are welcome to hang out at a sponsor bar, like Murphy's Taproom in Manchester, for food and drinks.

"This ties into the social aspect of sports. The flip side is that it's nice to relax and unwind after a game and socialize," Quimby said.

Register by visiting the New Hampshire Sports and Social Club website. 🍌

New Hampshire Sports and Social Club

What: Sports leagues for adults 21 and older

Where: There are leagues in Manchester, Merrimack, Nashua and Berlin and on the Seacoast

Cost: Varies depending on the sport

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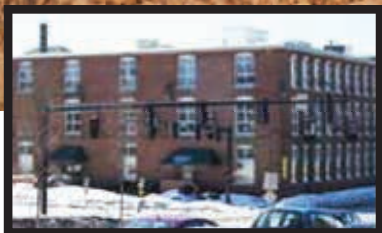
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IN/OUT TECHIE

High-tech year in review

Gadgets got a little bit better. Ho hum.

By John “jaQ” Andrews
jandrews@hippopress.com

This has not been a year of dramatic revolution in the tech world, despite what every product launch might want us to believe. Rather, it was a year of logical progressions and advancements, with a few hints of what’s to come.

America built stuff again. While the vast majority of our consumer electronics are still made in China, a tiny sliver of the manufacturing process came home this year. Apple, Google, Lenovo, and Motorola all began assembling products here in 2013. Note that word — only the final assembly will be done in America; the bits and pieces will still come from around the world.

For Apple, it’s the high-end Mac Pro desktop, starting at \$2,999. Google Glass started out at \$1,500 for developers, and while the retail price is likely to be somewhat lower, it won’t be cheap. Lenovo’s ThinkPad X230, on the other hand, is comparably priced with its other models, even though it’s put together in North Carolina. Motorola’s entry, the Moto X, is priced rather high relative to smartphones with similar specs when purchased unlocked, but on a contract with any carrier it doesn’t stand out.

Television got more detailed. What with the silly glasses, the high price, and the dearth of content, 3D just never became the killer app for television that hardware makers hoped. Plain old HDTVs are doing just fine, though, and the next upgrade already on the market is 4K resolution.

As the moniker suggests, 4K uses about

4,000 pixels across a screen. The 4K Ultra HD standard has twice the horizontal and vertical resolution of 1080p Full HD, at 3,840 x 2,160. That’s four times as many pixels as 1080p. There’s even an 8K Ultra HD standard with 16 times the pixels of 1080p, because one term meaning one thing is just too simple for the consumer electronics industry.

Smartwatches failed to take hold. Despite new products from Samsung and Sony, no one’s really gotten that jazzed about watches that connect to your smartphone. They’re bulky, run what amount to low-functionality widgets, and cost too much. Even the monochrome Pebble is \$150, more than most folks pay for actual phones on contract.

Displays started to curve. Two major smartphones released this year featured subtly concave screens. The Samsung Galaxy Curve bends in at the sides, while the LG G Flex’s top and bottom do the same. Why? Well, uh, because they can? There are supposedly fewer reflections, and the phones can hug a hip better than flat models. They only came out in Korea, though.

Meanwhile, Microsoft rolled back a couple decisions it had made in response to consumer pressure.

The Xbox One got offline. Gamers the world over reacted negatively when it was announced that the Xbox One would “check in” with Microsoft license servers every 24 hours. Microsoft’s reaction? “Yeah, um, OK, we won’t do that after all then.” Suddenly it became clear that users would be able to trade, borrow, and resell Xbox One games on disc just like they had with every single previous console ever.

The Start button came back. When Windows 8 was first released, the Start button that had occupied the lower left corner of the screen since 1995 was just ... gone. Oh, you could press the Windows key on your keyboard to bring up the full-screen, multi-colored, tiled Start menu. You could even swipe your mouse pointer (or finger on touchscreen devices) all the way into that bottom left corner for the same effect — but, man, the *button*. So in October, the Windows 8.1 update included the return of the Start button in its familiar place, along with the ability to boot up in desktop mode rather than that tiled menu mode, with no third-party programs or registry hacking necessary.

All that adds up to a year of cool stuff, but not a lot that demands instant upgrading.

What impressed you in the world of tech this year? Tell @CitizenjaQ on Twitter. 🐘

5 Predictions for 2014

1. Apple will make an iPhone with a curved screen and an accompanying iWatch. They will be hailed as unprecedented, magical, unspeakably beautiful, and possibly supernatural.
2. Google Glass will hit the consumer market at \$999. The glut of vloggers streaming live video 24 hours a day will prompt a spike in the price of computer memory as addicts keep dozens of browser windows open on multiple monitors.
3. Sony will release the first mainstream smartphone with both LCD and electronic paper screens.
4. Nintendo will buy or partner with the open-source game console Ouya.
5. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and Yahoo! CEO Marissa Mayer will hug onstage at a major tech conference. Fan-Fiction.net will devote a new section to the pairing.

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News from the local food scene

• **New exhibit unveiled:** A ribbon cutting ceremony was held last Wednesday to open a new exhibit called “Science In The Kitchen With Chef Nicole!” at the SEE Science Center in Manchester. Great NH Restaurants’ Corporate Chef Nicole Barreira created the exhibit space, which was donated by Great NH Restaurants to the educational center in Manchester’s millyard. The exhibit includes a kitchen display for children to learn about meal preparation, with kid-sized sinks, stoves, refrigerators and accessories including chef hats and aprons. Children visiting the SEE Science Center will be able to become chefs by interacting in the space while learning about the science behind cooking and eating well. In a press release announcing the unveiling of the new exhibit, SEE Science Center Executive Director Douglas Heuser said, “We are so pleased to unveil this new display right now. This time of year it’s a great thing for parents to do with kids during holiday vacation times. While one parent is doing the holiday shopping, the other brings the children to SEE for a great learning experience.” The SEE Science Center is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit see-sciencecenter.org.

• **Two happy butchers find new passion:** Former Stop & Shop employees Sterling Trumphour and Dave McLeod have opened their own shop in Milford recently. According to a Union Leader article, the two entrepreneurs were previously meat department managers, laid off when Stop & Shop closed its doors. After being told that they were overqualified to fill positions at other local grocery stores, the duo opened Two Happy Butchers (222 Elm St., Milford, 554-1339, twohappybutchers.com), the article said. Two Happy Butchers carries Boar’s Head products, marinated and seasoned meats and poultry, handmade sausage, roasts, pork roasts and pork tenderloin. The new butcher shop celebrated its grand opening just before Thanksgiving.

• **New café for Nashua:** A new café is scheduled to open in March 2014 in Tara Commons on Spit Brook Road in Nashua. A November press release announced that the new quick-service café will have a drive-thru and plans to serve local, fresh food and micro-roasted coffee. In the press release, Pressed Café owner Roi Shpindler, who also owns Mint Bistro and Bridge Café in Manchester, said “We wanted to re-introduce the Bridge [Café] concept to the Nashua community on a more refined platform, which was the inspiration 39 ▶

FOOD

Dine out and ring in 2014

Where to eat on New Year’s Eve

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

The following restaurants are ringing in the new year with Champagne toasts and prix fixe menus. Or dine out at other restaurants that are open for the holiday and serving from their regular menu.

• **Alan’s of Boscawen** (133 N. Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631, alansofboscawen.com) Dine at the Gala Buffet from 4 to 10 p.m. on New Year’s Eve, and ring in the new year with The Natalie Turgeon band.

• **Alpine Grove** (19 S. Depot Road, Hollis, 882-9051, alpinegrove.com) Enter Margaritaville this New Year’s Eve, with hors d’oeuvres and cash bar starting at 6 p.m., followed by a hot buffet and dessert buffet. Midnight snacks and toast help ring in 2014, with DJ Chris Brunelle. Costumes are encouraged, and prizes will be awarded. The New Year’s in Margaritaville costs \$40 per person, with seating for eight to 10 people per table (smaller parties welcome, too).

• **Bedford Village Inn** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) Celebrate the new year with a prix fixe dinner (featuring dishes like tartlet of duck confit with mushroom cream, pan-seared foie gras waffles with hazelnut butter and arugula salad with goat cheese for starters, followed by options like filet mignon, roasted Atlantic salmon, Long Island duck breast or pan-roasted veal chop) from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Dinner costs \$75 (plus tax and gratuity). A limited a la carte menu will also be available in Tavern and Corks at the Inn. Then, on New Year’s Day, breakfast is served from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and brunch is served from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Overnight packages available.

• **bluAqua** (292 Route 101, Amherst, 673-4321, bluaquarestaurant.com) Serving a five-course prix fixe menu at three seatings (5 p.m., 7 p.m., and 9 p.m.). Dinner costs \$125 per couple and reservations are required.

• **Brookstone Grille** (14 Route 111, Derry, 328-9255, brookstone-park.com) ’80s and ’90s dance party from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. with cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, station style dinner, dancing and DJ, with Champagne toast at midnight. Tickets cost \$39 per person and must be purchased in advance.

• **Cask & Vine** (1½ E. Broadway, Derry, 965-3454, caskandvine.com) celebrates its one-year anniversary and rings in the new year on Tuesday, Dec. 31, with a Booze Up & Riot event from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Menu includes roast beef tenderloin with fingerling potato au gratin, smoked bleu cheese and cabernet demi-glaze (\$21), pan-seared swordfish



with Jasmine rice, Asian vegetable medley and coconut red curry broth (\$19.50), cheesecake with cranberry caramel sauce, almond brittle and bruléed anjou pear (\$8) and chocolate bombe with milk chocolate sauce and zebra stick (\$8). Draft list includes White Birch Brewing, Goose Island Bourbon County Brand Stout, Founders Brewing Co. and Allagash.

• **The Chateau** (201 Hanover St., Manchester, 627-2677, chateauh.com) will be continuing its annual New Year’s Eve dinner theater tradition with The Majestic Theatre (majestictheatre.net). The murder-mystery features audience participation on Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 7 p.m., and Wednesday, Jan. 1, at noon for brunch. Tickets cost \$45 for Tuesday night and \$25 for Wednesday. Costumes are optional. Advance reservations required. The dinner menu includes garden salad, chicken cordon bleu and cheesecake for dessert. The brunch includes a breakfast buffet. Call The Majestic directly for tickets at 669-7469.

• **Colby Hill Inn** (33 The Oaks, Henniker, 428-3281, colbyhillinn.com) serving a four-course prix fixe menu (cost \$65 per person). The menu includes choices like pan-seared Hudson Valley foie gras or oysters on the half-shell for starters, with Maine lobster bisque or endive salad for the second course, grilled local lamb loin chops, roasted sugar pumpkin risotto or maple glazed Vermont quail as an entrée. For dessert, diners can choose between options like tiramisu cheesecake, bananas foster crème brûlée or strawberry stuffed crêpes with honey whipped mascarpone and white chocolate Champagne sabayon. Reservations for seatings are available from 5 to 9 p.m.

• **Copper Door** (15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoorrestaurant.com) open from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. serving

from a special four-course menu (cost \$65 per person, not including tax and gratuity). Diners will be able to select one dish per course, like tuna tartare or shrimp bruschetta for an appetizer, golden beet carpaccio or blackberry and caramelized fennel salad for a starter, pan-seared duck served with butternut squash risotto and blackberry gastrique or grilled veal tomahawk with sour cream mashed potatoes, roasted Brussels sprouts and mushroom sauce or a surf and turf dish with tenderloin and tarragon butter lobster tail for entrées. Dessert options include white chocolate cheesecake or baked Alaska igloo.

• **Cotton Restaurant** (75 Arms St., Manchester, 622-5488, cottonfood.com) open for lunch and then from 5 to 10 p.m. for a special three-course dinner. The price of the three-course dinner ranges from \$38 to \$60, depending on entrée selection. Reservations strongly recommended.

• **Crowne Plaza** (2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua, 595-4155, speakerscornerbistro.com) offering an overnight package (cost ranges from \$309 to \$379 per couple) and celebration (cost \$279 per couple) including a Welcome Champagne and hors d’oeuvres reception with sushi, seafood station, pasta station and appetizers at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. with herb crusted tenderloin and Maine lobster croquet, baby toy box vegetables, asiago chive duchess potato and sherry laced wild mushrooms with forestière sauce. The dessert buffet opens at 9:45 p.m. (including mini tarts in red velvet, chocolate and vanilla, tapas desserts, bananas foster and chocolate fountain). Dancing to live band from 9:45 p.m. to 1 a.m., with a Champagne toast at midnight. Champagne breakfast buffet for overnight guests on New Year’s Day. Call 886-1200 for reservations.

• **The Derryfield** (625 Mammoth Road,



Manchester, 623-2880, derryfieldrestaurant.com) open New Year's Eve with a Champagne toast at midnight, party favors and live music with Last Kid Picked. Tickets cost \$25.

- **EJ's on Main** (172 N. Main St., Concord, 224-3463, ejsonmain.com) Located inside the Holiday Inn, the restaurant will be holding its annual New Year's Eve programming with cocktails starting at 6 p.m., followed by a three-course dinner at 7 p.m., along with comedians, dancing and a DJ during the night, plus Champagne toast at midnight. Purchase tickets for New Year's Eve programs by calling 224-9534.

- **Gauchos Churrascaria** (62 Lowell St., Manchester, 669-9460, gauchosbraziliansteakhouse.com) dinner starts at 8 p.m., followed by dancing and a DJ. Dinner and dancing costs \$40 (costs \$20 for party only).

- **Giorgio's Ristorante & Bar** (524 Nashua St., Milford, 673-3939, giorgios.com) serving a winter menu with specials. Milford location only. DJ from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Champagne toast after 10 p.m.

- **Granite Restaurant & Bar** (96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9000, graniterestaurant.com) will be open from 5 to 10 p.m. serving a four-course menu (cost \$55 per person), including appetizer, salad or soup, entrée and dessert. The restaurant is also open on New Year's Day for brunch, from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and dinner from 5 to 8 p.m.

- **Hanover Street Chophouse** (149 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-2467, hanoverstreetchophouse.com) is open for lunch on New Year's Eve, and reservations are being taken for a special four-course dinner with seating from 4:30 to 9 p.m. Dinner price based per couple at \$175.

- **JW Hills Sports Bar & Grille** (795 Elm St., Manchester, 645-7422, jwhills.com) serving a buffet dinner with prime rib, pork tenderloin and chicken from 9 to 10:30 p.m., open bar (excludes top shelf items), Champagne toast, door prizes and DJ. Doors open at 8:30 p.m., and tickets cost \$60 (does not include gratuity). Tickets must be purchased in advance.

- **LaBelle Winery** (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinerynh.com)

Join A Night of Wishes with hors d'oeuvres, live music, dancing and sparkling wine toast from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Dinner includes hors d'oeuvres and appetizers inspired by cuisine from around the world, plus dessert buffet and coffees. Sparkling wine toast and sparklers at midnight, and a big screen will broadcast the ball dropping live in Times Square. Tickets cost \$75 and must be purchased in advance.

- **Mile Away Restaurant** (52 Federal Hill Road, Milford, 673-3904, mileawayrestaurant.com) Taking reservations from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. and serving a special New Year's Eve dinner menu with options like rack of lamb (\$37), pecan encrusted chicken (\$30), lobster pie (\$34) and duck grand marnier (\$33). All dinners include a choice of one appetizer, salad, entree and dessert.

- **Mint Bistro** (1105 Elm St., Manchester, 625-6468, mintbistronh.com) will be serving from a special holiday menu with three different seatings from 4 to 11 p.m. Reservations strongly recommended.

- **MT's Local Kitchen & Wine Bar** (212 Main St., Nashua, 595-9334, mtslocal.com) serving a special menu for dinner on New Year's Eve, from 5 to 10 p.m.

- **Napa East Wine Lounge & Shop** (12 Murphy Drive, Unit B1, Nashua, 595-9463, napaeast.com) serving a four-course prix-fixe dinner menu (cost \$90 plus tax and gratuity) reservations begin at 3 p.m. The menu includes choices like lobster bisque or pear and radicchio salad with arugula, candied pecans, Gorgonzola, pancetta and garlic-roasted white balsamic vinaigrette for starters, tasso ham-wrapped blackened chicken skewers with mango coulis or seared foie gras on bourbon French toast with blueberry jam and lemon crème fraîche for the second course, buttermilk boneless fried chicken or crab stuffed filet of sole or applewood-smoked bacon wrapped filet mignon for the third course. Desserts include vanilla panna cotta with fresh fruit or molten chocolate cake.

- **O Steaks and Seafood** (11 S. Main St., Concord, 856-7925, magicfoodsrestaurant-group.com) will be open on New Year's Eve for reservations only with a special set menu.

Chef/Author/Owner Jeffrey Paige

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- **Old Europe** (76 N. Main St., Concord, 856-7181, oldeuropenh.com) serving a prix fixe menu right up until midnight.
- **Restaurant Tek-Nique** (170 Route 101, Bedford, 488-5629, restaurantteknique.com) open regular hours on New Year's Eve, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and serving from its regular menu and six-course prix-fixe menu (cost \$75 per person plus tax and gratuity). Reservations required.
- **Stages at One Washington** (1 Washington St., Suite 325, Dover, 842-4077, stages-dining.com) serving six- to seven-course tapas dinner menu inspired by *The Great Gatsby*. Although the dinner is currently sold out, Stages at One Washington is taking names for a waiting list. Open reservations start at 5:30 p.m., and reservations are accepted through OpenTable.com. The dinner costs \$65 per person, and an additional \$35 per person for the optional beverage pairing (not including tax and gratuity).
- **Stella Blu** (70 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 578-5557, stellablu-nh.com) serving from a special menu starting at 5 p.m. Reservations recommended.
- **Sunny's Table** (11 Depot St., Concord, 225-8181, sunnystable.com) serving three-course prix-fixe menu ranging from \$45 to \$65. Reservations required.
- **Tuscan Kitchen** (67 Main St., Salem, 952-4875, tuscanbrands.com) serving a special New Year's Eve menu. Last seating at 9 p.m. Reservations recommended.
- **Unums** (47 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 821-6500, unums.com) serving a special New

Year's Eve menu.

- **Villaggio Ristorante** (677 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 627-2424, villaggionh.com) accepting reservations for New Year's Eve celebration dinner.
- **The Yard** (1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-3545, theyardrestaurant.com) has a New Year's Eve package with a holiday buffet dinner (including garden salad, appetizers platters, carving station with roast turkey and baked ham, roast tenderloin of beef, seafood Newburg, sides and desserts) with a comedy show, DJ and Champagne toast at midnight. Cost \$65 per person (includes tax and gratuity). Reservations required.

Restaurants open with regular menus, some specials:

- **The Barley House** (132 N. Main St., Concord, 228-6363, thebarleyhouse.com) will have live jazz from 6 to 9 p.m. and dinner specials. Kitchen closes at 10 p.m.
- **The Black Forest Café** (212 Route 101, Amherst, 672-0500, theblackforestcafe.com) open on New Year's Eve until 8 p.m.
- **Buckley's Great Steaks** (438 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 424-0995, buckleysgreatsteaks.com) open 5 to 10 p.m.
- **Cheers** (17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, cheersnh.com) open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- **Cucina Toscana** (427 Amherst St., Nashua, 821-7356, cucinatoscaneanashua.com) open New Year's Eve with regular

menu.

- **Epoch Restaurant & Bar at The Exeter Inn** (2 Pine St., Exeter, 778-3762, epochrestaurant.com) serving from its regular dinner menu from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Reservations required.
- **The Farm Bar & Grille** (1181 Elm St., Manchester, 641-3276, farmbargrille.com) kitchen closes at 10 p.m., the bar will be open until last call. In-house drink specials available.
- **Firefly American Bistro & Bar** (22 Concord St., Manchester, 935-9740, fireflynh.com) taking reservations for dinner, from 4 to 10 p.m.
- **Fratello's Italian Grille** (155 Dow St., Manchester, 624-2022, fratellos.com) special holiday menu from 4 to 10 p.m. on New Year's Eve; dinner on New Year's Day starts at 4 p.m.
- **Harold Square** (226 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 432-7144, harold-square.com) open on New Year's Eve until 9 p.m. with a special menu.
- **The Homestead Restaurant** (641 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-2022, homesteadnh.com) serving from a limited menu on New Year's Eve (including popular dishes and specials), close at 9 p.m.
- **Hooked Seafood Restaurant** (110 Hanover St., Manchester, 606-1189, hookednh.com) open regular hours from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Ignite Bar and Grille** (100 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-0064, ignitebng.com) open regular hours from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

- **Piccola Italia** (815 Elm St., Manchester, 606-5100, piccolaitalianh.com) serving dinner from its regular menu until 11 p.m. on New Year's Eve.
- **Red Arrow Diner** (61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 63 Union Square, Milford, 249-9222, redarrowdiner.com) open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including New Year's.
- **Red Blazer** (72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com) serving from its regular menu for lunch, and a limited menu for dinner until 8 p.m.
- **Republic Cafe** (1069 Elm St., Manchester, 666-3723, republiccafe.com) will be open regular hours.
- **River Road Tavern** (193 S. River Road, Bedford, 206-5837, riverroadtavern.com) open on New Year's Eve.
- **Surf** (207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293, surfseafood.com) open regular hours on New Year's Eve, from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m., and serving from its regular menu with an additional special menu for the holiday.
- **Unwine'd** (865 Second St., Manchester, 625-9463, unwined.net) open from 4:30 to 10 p.m.
- **Villa Banca** (194 Main St., Nashua, 598-0500, villabanca.com) serving from its dinner menu with holiday specials during regular hours, until 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve.
- **XO on Elm** (827 Elm St., Manchester, 560-7998, xoonehm.com) open for dinner from 4:30 to 10 p.m. and serving from its regular menu. 🍷

Getting trendy in 2013

Caffeine, craft beer and being gluten-free

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

It's been quite a year for the southern New Hampshire food scene, with annual events like Rock'n Ribfest in Merrimack and new events like the New Hampshire Coffee Festival, already scheduled to return in 2014. There are new restaurants, restaurants that closed, a continued rise in farmers markets and continued interest in trends like sourcing locally and providing gluten-free options. Here are some of the highlights from 2013, plus a few things to look forward to in the first three months of 2014.

Craft beer reigns

The craft beer trend continues to grow in the Granite State. Perhaps it's in our roots, since Portsmouth is known for its brewing history (as seen on display last summer during Strawberry Banke Museum's special exhibit "Tapping Portsmouth: How the Brewing Industry Shaped the City"). Cask & Vine (Derry) opened one year ago with 12 lines of craft beer on tap that rotate regular-

ly, plus special beer dinners and events with craft brewing. Dover gained a few new craft beer locations, like Leaven, a craft beer pub, restaurant and sourdough bakery, and One Love and 7th Settlement, microbreweries that share space on Washington Street. Border Brewery (Salem) also opened this year. The Southern New Hampshire Brewers Festival celebrated its third year at White Birch Brewing (Hooksett).

"There's definitely a peak of interest in what New Hampshire is bringing to the table," Ryan Maiola of Henniker Brewing Co. said. "That's one of our main objectives here is to really go out and educate the consumer about the different choices they have. Especially in New Hampshire, there are a lot of micro breweries popping up here now."

There are also Granite State Growler Tours, in which guests take a bus from one local brewery to the next (nhbeerbus.com).

Gluten awareness grows

In 2011, it would have been difficult to find gluten-free options on the menu. Now, chefs across southern New Hampshire are saying that they've noticed an increase in customers

requesting gluten-free products. Many restaurants have responded to this demand by introducing gluten-free menus. Buckwheat's Gluten Free Bakery has been catering to the needs of restaurants through wholesale prod-

uct, and this summer it opened an outlet (Nashua), open on Saturdays for customers to come in to the bakery storefront.

"As far as the demand, obviously it's one of the fastest-growing intolerances or aller-



Craft beer, like these brews from Henniker Brewing Co., continued its popularity in 2013 with more education, brews and beer dinners. Courtesy photo.

gies in a while,” said Shawn Cassell, manager at Joe’s American Bar & Grille in Nashua. “We have a lot of new guests come in that are surprised to find the gluten-free products we carry, which allows for a lot of returning customers, too.”

Although it’s a chain with locations around New England, Joe’s is a scratch kitchen. It’s also one of the wholesale accounts with Buckwheat’s Gluten Free. When the menu changes, it’s able to make changes based on what gluten-free product they have available, from pizza crust and dinner rolls to garlic bread and beer, Cassell said.

Coffee was a-buzz

From latte art to a brand new coffee festival, coffee fans had a great year in the Granite State. Amherst’s A&E Custom Coffee Roastery owner Emeran Langmaid introduced Thursday Night Throwdown competitions, hosted at local cafes and coffee roasteries. The competitions feature dueling baristas who compete in creating latte art and are held on the second Thursday of the month. Cafe la Reine in Manchester participated in December. Owner Alexandra Puglisi, a graduate of St. Anselm College, opened the new Elm Street cafe in the spring of 2013, with a cafe-style menu including sandwiches, baked goods and salads, coffees, lattes and teas, plus monthly Java Jams events with musicians. In September, the first-ever New Hampshire Coffee Festival, held in Laconia, featured free coffee, samples, coffee-inspired grilling, roasters and vendors, coffee sack races and a coffee bean bag toss. According to an NHPR report on the event, organizers ran out of their first 2,000 sample cups in an hour. Next year’s festival is already scheduled for Sept. 13.

Farm-to-table trend continues

Eating, buying and dining local has been a growing trend across the nation, and especially in New Hampshire during the past couple years. More and more restaurants are starting farm-to-table special dinners, with

courses designed around ingredients from local farms, including 11Eleven Bistro (Manchester) and The Farmers Dinner, which hosts farm-to-table dinners at various restaurants with dialogue on sustainable and local food sourcing. Charlie Burke, President of NH Farm to Restaurant Connection, said that Martingale Wharf (Portsmouth), The Wentworth (Jackson) and Sugar Hill Inn (Sugar Hill) all were certified local in 2013, with several in the process of certification.

“People are really looking for it,” he said. “I get emails from people coming to New Hampshire wanting to know where to go.”

In addition to restaurants going local, farmers markets have continued to grow. Most communities, from Auburn and Weare to Deerfield and Salem, now hold weekly farmers markets in the summer season, stretching from June through October. Concord added a second market this year, so the city had one each Wednesday and Saturday throughout the summer. Winter farmers markets have also grown popular, with extended seasons to allow for markets year round.

Artsy dining

Restaurants like Murphy’s Taproom (Manchester), Halligan’s Tavern (Derry), Milly’s Tavern (Manchester) and The Farm (Manchester) all regularly host Paint Nite programs (see paintnite.com).

“We like to provide a wide breadth of range for entertainment,” Todd Griffin, manager at Milly’s Tavern, said. “For us it just seemed like a good fit for all the stuff going on already.”

The company Paint Nite approached Milly’s Tavern to host the painting programs, where participants sign up to attend and paint in the restaurant or bar.

Similar to Paint Nite, guests can create their own masterpieces at Muse Paint Bar (Manchester), a paint studio with bar service. Muse serves appetizers and drinks; you can even sip a glass of wine from LaBelle Winery (Amherst) while you paint.

Roman wine bar, will open Campo Enoteca right down the street from Republic in February. Pressed Cafe comes to Nashua in March, and Five Guys is scheduled to open in Concord in 2014.

4. **Extended winter markets:** The cold can’t stop them. Since winter farmers markets are getting so popular, many are running weekly (or all weekend long, like the Tilton Winter Farmers Market). Some markets, like the Henniker Winter Market, run on Thursdays right up through May. See nhfma.org.

5. **Yummy syrup:** Maple syrup production runs in February and March at local sugarcrofts across the state, and NH Maple Producers Association will host its annual Maple Weekend on Saturday, March 22, and Sunday, March 23.

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Foodie things to look forward to

The first three months of 2014 will have a lot to offer the food scene.

1. **More mac and cheese:** Granite State Dairy Promotion’s annual Macaroni and Cheese Bake Off is returning for more cheesy goodness on Saturday, Jan. 18, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. Visit nhdairypromo.org to register your own mac and cheese recipe.

2. **Wine Week:** The New Hampshire Liquor Commission will host its annual Wine Week this year from Monday, Jan. 27, through Sunday, Feb. 7, with winemakers, seminars with sommeliers, tastings, wine dinners and events.

3. **New restaurants scheduled to open:** A few new restaurants are scheduled to open during the first months of 2014. The owners of Republic in Manchester, a contemporary

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GET BREWING



Set a New Year's resolution to brew something new. Join IncrediBREW on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m. for its annual Happy New Beers brewfest. The program introduces six new beers to the brewery's line up. Guests will be able to brew Zombie Lust, Undead Gal Ale, Rye IPA and others. Snacks and refreshments are provided, and no brewing experience is required to participate. The program costs \$35 per variety case (bottles included). Sign up at incredibrew.com or call 891-2477. IncrediBREW is located at 112 Daniel Webster Highway in Nashua.

Food

Lectures/author events/festivals/fairs

• **NEW YEARS EVE SAMPLING** On Sat., Dec. 28, from 1 to 5 p.m. at The Fresh Market (79 S. River Road, Bedford, 626-3420, thefreshmarket.com), includes party platters, appetizers, deli and produce samples.
• **TEA SNIFFING CONTEST** Thurs., Jan. 9, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Hooksett Public Library (31 Mount Saint Marys Way, Hooksett). Sniff 10 different teas and match unmarked teas to their names. Instructor Lynda Simmons of Tea For You will lead the program, plus tea and refreshments. Free; call 485-6092 or visit hooksettlibrary.org.
• **MACARONI AND CHEESE BAKE OFF** Sat., Jan. 18, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center (70 Constitution Ave., Concord). Admission costs \$10 for adults, \$3 for kids ages 6 to 12, free for kids age 5 and under. Bakers can register by Tue., Jan. 14. Register by Fri., Jan. 3, and receive free cheese from Cabot. Costs \$10 to register. See nhdairypromo.org.
• **COOK AND SHARE BOOK GROUP** Thurs., Jan. 23, at 6:30 p.m. at Chester Public Library (3 Chester St., Chester, 887-3404, chesterlibrary.com) to share and sample recipes from a selected cookbook. Registration required.
• **WHAT'S COOKIN' BOOK CLUB** Sat., Jan. 25, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Goffstown Public Library (2 High St., Goffstown, 497-2102, goftownlibrary.com) to sample recipes from *Barefoot Contessa Foolproof* by Ina Garten. Advanced registration required.
• **POLAR GRILL FEST** Sat., Jan. 25, from noon to 5 p.m. at Redhook Brewery (1 Redhook Way, Portsmouth, 501-3940, polargrillfest.com).
• **CHILI CHOWDER COOKOFF** Sun., Jan. 26, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Amherst Business Center (105 Route 101, Amherst). Visit the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce website at souhegan.net.

Chef events/special meals

• **WINTER WARMTH** Hearthside dinner at the Remick Museum and Farm (58 Cleveland Hill Road, Tamworth, 323-8382, remickmuseum.org) on Sat., Jan. 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. Cost \$40. Call 323-7591 to make a reservation. Reservations required.

Church/charity suppers/bake sales

• **COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** Sundays from 8 to 11 a.m. at Philbrick-Clement Post 65 American Legion (12 N. Stark Highway, Weare, 529-2722, nhpost65.us). A la carte breakfast menu benefits the Legion and community outreach. Cost ranges from \$3.50 to \$7.
• **COMMUNITY SUPPER** Held the third Wednesdays of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Milford at 20 Elm St. See uucm.org.
• **SPAGHETTI SUPPER** at St. George Church (25 Chapel St., Dover) on Sat., Dec. 28, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Cost \$6 for adults, \$3 for children. Call 740-4287.
• **HAM AND BEAN SUPPER** Sat., Jan. 4, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at First Parish Church (218 Central Ave., Dover). Costs \$8 for adults, \$5 for children. Call 742-5664.
• **BREAKFAST BUFFET** Sat., Jan. 11, from 8 to 11 a.m. at Bethany Chapel (54 Newbury Road, Manchester). Costs \$7 for adults, \$4 for children and kids under 6 eat free. Visit bethanychapel.com.
• **EMPTY BOWLS** Wed., Feb. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Nashua High School South (36 Riverside St., Nashua) benefits Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter with over 700 stoneware bowls handmade by students, faculty and community members with soups to choose from. Cost \$15. See nshs.org.

Food classes/workshops

• **COOKING CLUB** Teen cooking group meets on Tuesdays, Jan. 7, Jan. 21, Feb. 4,

and Feb. 18, from 3 to 4:15 p.m. at Derry Public Library (64 E. Derryway, Derry, 432-6140, derrypl.org).

• **HANDS ON: BAKING CROISSANTS** Dancing Lion Chocolate (917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancinglion.us) instruction with Savory Chef Jeff, Mon., Jan. 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Costs \$65; space limited.

• **HANDS ON RISOTTO** Tuscan cooking class on Wed., Jan. 15, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Tuscan Market (67 Main St., Salem, 912-5467, tusanbrands.com). Sign-up at tusanbrands.eventbrite.com. All classes cost \$125 (\$50 gift for participants who register for all three classes).

• **COOKING CONFIDENTIAL** Cooking classes at Colby Hill Inn (33 The Oaks, Henniker, 428-3281, colbyhillinn.com) include an evening with the chef, hands-on cooking instruction, followed by a three-course dinner with wine on select Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Classes cost \$125, and are held on Jan. 20, Feb. 10, March 3, March 31, and April 14. Advanced registration required.

• **HANDS ON FREE FORM LASAGNA** Tuscan cooking class on Wed., Jan. 22, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Tuscan Market (67 Main St., Salem, 912-5467, tusanbrands.com). Sign-up at tusanbrands.eventbrite.com. All classes cost \$125 (\$50 gift for participants who register for all three classes).

• **BONE BROTH SOUP** Wed., Jan. 22, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Brown Lane Barn (52 Brown Lane, Hollis). Cost \$15, or \$100 for the year to include other programs and materials. Call 465-7787 to register.

• **HANDS ON PIZZE** Tuscan cooking class on Wed., Jan. 29, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Tuscan Market (67 Main St., Salem, 912-5467, tusanbrands.com). Sign-up at tusanbrands.eventbrite.com. All classes cost \$125 (\$50 gift for participants who register for all three classes).

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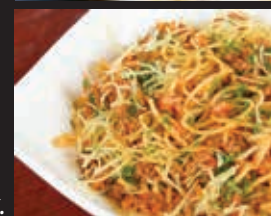
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COOKBOOK THROWDOWN

By Amy Diaz

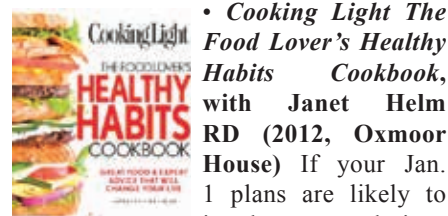


WINNER'S CIRCLE



The five best Cookbook Throwdown cookbooks

There have been many champions and a few ties in the months since I started pitting cookbook against cookbook. Even among the winners, though, a few cookbooks stand tall. Here are the five winners from 2013 Cookbook Throwdowns that most deserve to end up on your shelf.



• **Cooking Light The Food Lover's Healthy Habits Cookbook**, with Janet Helm RD (2012, Oxmoor House) If your Jan. 1 plans are likely to involve resolutions to eat healthier, this is your book. Produced by Cooking Light magazine, this book blends traditional recipes with more magaziney pieces such as "Shake Up Your Salads," which are more about piecing together variations on a dish and with short items about snack food and fitting workouts in to your life. This book won in a dessert battle, proving that eating healthy doesn't mean forgoing indulgences.



• **Weelicious Lunches** by Catherine McCord (2013, William Morrow) If you look to the heavens and cry "why, God, why" every time you're faced with putting together a lunch for your kids, then this is your book. Whether you're cooking for a toddler or older kids or adults, *Weelicious Lunches* offers recipes for easy to make, easy to eat (finger food is big here) and easy to store lunch items that are also healthy and tasty. In a lunchtime battle judged in part by a very picky baby, this book came out on top with dishes that are kid approved.

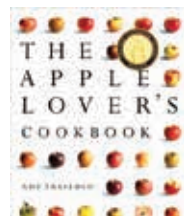


• **L.A. Son** by Roy Choi (2013, Anthony Bourdain/Ecco) This book is, sure, an excellent cookbook collecting recipes that showcase the diverse culinary traditions and fusions of Los Angeles, but it is also a

thoroughly engrossing memoir of Chef Choi and a window on some of the cities, suburbs and cultures that make up the non-Hollywood, non-Beverly Hills part of the vast greater Los Angeles area. This cookbook one a rice battle with "Ketchup Fried Rice" — a dish that perfectly captures the charming audacity of this book.



• **Always in Season: Twelve Months of Fresh Recipes from the Farmers' Markets of New England** by Elise Richer (2013, Islandport Press) The food of the New England harvest is the focus of this book, which is a handy guide for anybody who likes to take advantage of the farmers market season but isn't always sure what else to do after exhausting all possible variations on tomato salads. Organized by month, the book is relevant even in winter, as evidenced by its winning recipe ("Roasted Celeriac and Potato") in a potato battle.



• **The grand champion: The Apple Lover's Cookbook** by Amy Traverso (2011, W.W. Norton & Company) This James Beard award-winner that came out a few years ago was the best cookbook in this year's competitions and a must-own for anybody, especially anybody in New England who is even remotely interested in cooking. The book is more than just a collection of apple recipes; it offers a lengthy look at apple varieties, helpful tips on buying, storing and preparing apples, and notes on the recipes. Easy to use, enjoyable to look at and informative (the early section running through apple varieties is particularly noteworthy and as useful for gardeners considering adding some apple trees to the yard as it is for cooks), *The Apple Lover's Cookbook* is the answer to those who wonder if cookbooks are still relevant in the age of online recipes. Apple scholarship like this is worth a spot on your shelf. 🍏

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 32

behind this project.”

• **Learn to cook Tuscan:** Tuscan Market (67 Main St., Salem, 912-5467, tuscan-brands.com) announced that it will be holding a series of cooking classes in January. The Tuscan Cooking School includes classes like Hands On Risotto on Wednesday, Jan. 15, Hands On Free Form Lasagna on Wednesday, Jan. 22, and Hands On Pizze on Wednesday, Jan. 29. Each class runs from 6 to 9 p.m. at Tuscan Market, and is followed by a multi-course meal prepared by the Trattoria chefs at Tuscan Market featuring the dish highlighted in the class.

Each class costs \$125 per person, which covers instruction, ingredients, dish preparation and meal. Guests who register for all three classes receive a \$50 gift card to Tuscan Kitchen or Tuscan Market. Sign-up at eventbrite.com.

• **Coming soon:** Earlier in the month, a sign appeared over the store-front space previously occupied by Koi Japan on Elm Street in Manchester for Bada Bing's! Pizzeria, likely to open in 2014. There's no word on Frutti Twist Frozen Yogurt Cafe, though, which first appeared with "Coming Soon" signs in August on Elm Street. 🍷

Chocolate (917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancinglion.us) instruction on Tue., Feb. 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the history and production of cacao and chocolate, plus tasting of five rare chocolates and a Dancing Lion bonbon. Costs \$45; space limited.

• **HANDS ON: BAKING CROISSANTS** Dancing Lion Chocolate (917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancinglion.us) instruction with Savory Chef Jeff, Mon., Jan. 13, cost \$65; space limited.

• **A MARKET** The Manchester natural foods store's education center offers classes and workshops on health and nutrition. See myamarket.com.

• **BEDFORD COMMUNITY EDUCATION** Classes offered out of Bedford High School (103 County Road, Bedford, 472-3755). For information, contact Susan Sambrano at sambranos@sau25.net or phone 714-4395. Visit sau25.net/BedfordHigh.cfm and click on Community Enrichment Program under the Community link.

• **CHEZ BOUCHER COOKING SCHOOL** One-day workshops, mini-sessions, international cooking, cooking with friends, team-building, classes for kids and more. Chez Boucher (32 Depot Square, Hampton, 926-2202) can be found online at chezboucher.com.

• **COFFEE COFFEE** Cooking classes features a different dish each with, also includes cooking technique instruction. Meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Coffee Coffee (326 S. Broadway, Salem, 912-5381, coffeeroastersnh.com). Cost \$30, call in advance.

• **CO-OP CLASSES** The Concord Cooperative Market (24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop), holds regular series on wellness, green living and cooking. Even free classes require registration. Visit concordfoodcoop.coop for schedule. Interested teachers

can contact the Co-op Wellness Coordinator, Maria Noël Groves at 410-3099.

• **CREATIVE FEAST CLASS-**ES Liz Barbour's Creative Feast offers classes and demonstrations held at RiverBend & Company (11 Cornerstone Square, Westford, Mass.). Email lizb@thecreativefeast.com or visit thecreativefeast.com.

• **EXETER ADULT EDUCATION** Cooking classes offered at Tuck Learning Center (30 Linden St., Exeter) Sessions on baking, global cuisine and more. Dates and fees at 775-8457, tgluck@sau16.org or adulted.sau16.org.

• **FARM FOOD, GARDEN TO TABLE** Chefs at Moulton Farm (18 Quarry Road, Meredith, 279-3915) hold regular workshops, demonstrations, and events on preparing healthy dishes using farm-raised ingredients. Some classes have fees. Check moultonfarm.com; call the farm or email robbmoultonfarm@metrocast.com for details and reservations.

• **FREDERICK'S PASTRIES** One-time classes for kids and adults in cake decoration and design. Frederick's Pastries (109 Route 101A, Amherst, 882-7725) offers demonstrations regularly or by appointment. Check pastry.net or call to schedule.

• **HANNAFORD SUPERMARKETS** offer free classes on stretching your food budget, healthy cooking, time-saving meals and more. See hannafor.com and click on "health & nutrition" for classes at the Hannaford near you.

• **KITCHEN2KITCHEN** Chef Sarah Robinson of Forever Feasting and Margaret Angarella of Guided Nutrition hold Kitchen2Kitchen at the Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St., Concord) on Saturdays. Sessions are two hours on healthy, delicious and fast meals; \$65 per person includes materials, a shared meal, recipes and nutritional information. Visit forev-

erfeasting.com or call 568-2741.

• **LUNCH & LEARN** The Concord Food Co-op (24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop) holds "Lunch & Learn at the Co-op" some Thursdays from 12:15 to 1 p.m. The programs are limited to eight students; call to register.

• **NO-BAKE COOKING** First and third Tuesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. for kids ages 8 and older at the Wilton Public & Gregg Free Library, 7 Forest Road, Wilton. See wiltonlibrarynh.org. Registration required.

• **WINTERGREEN BOTANICALS** Herbalist Maria Noël Groves holds regular classes all over the state on the use of herbs for better health. Contact her at 340-5161 or see schedule at wintergreenbotanicals.com.

• **YMCA COOKING SEMINARS** Every first Monday at Nashua YMCA (24 Stadium Drive, Nashua), hosted by The Courville Communities' Executive Chef Greg Wadland and Pastry Chef Rejean Sheeche, 12:30-1:30 p.m. New theme each month with recipes, meal ideas, food substitution guidelines and more. Call 882-2011.

Tastings

• **COFFEE** roasting and tasting demonstration of Kona Coffee at A&E Roastery, 131 Route 101A, Amherst. Free. Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 578-3338.

• **COFFEE** with food pairing on Fridays at 7 p.m. at Coffee Coffee (326 S. Broadway, Salem, 912-5381, coffeeroastersnh.com).

• **EXOTIC MEATS** The Healthy Buffalo, Route 4 in Chichester, 369-3611, healthybuffalo.com, offers tastings of its exotic meats every Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Try the ostrich, alligator, elk, kangaroo and buffalo.

Winter farmers markets

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THE KITCHEN WITH SHAWN JENNESS

Shawn Jenness, kitchen manager and chef at The Farm Bar & Grille (1181 Elm St., Manchester, 641-3276, farmbargrille.com), grew up in Manchester and attended Manchester Central High School. Since he always liked cooking, Jenness pursued culinary arts at a tech school and gained experience as a kitchen manager in nearby restaurants before working in Las Vegas as a bartender and cook. He came back to the Queen City and joined the team at The Farm when it first opened as bartender and sous chef before he was promoted to kitchen manager earlier this year.



What is your must-have kitchen item?
Probably a blender.

What would you choose for your last meal?
My mother's lasagna.

Favorite restaurant besides your own?
Probably my favorite restaurant is the Wild Rover.

What celebrity would you like to see eating at your restaurant?

Sylvester Stallone. I just love Sylvester Stallone; I'm a huge *Rocky* fan. I love everything he does. It would be real fun to meet him.

What is the biggest food trend in New Hampshire right now?

Probably gluten-free. We cater to a lot of gluten-free on our menu.

What is your favorite meal to cook at home?

Steak and potatoes. I don't like eating out for steak. Some people don't cook it right. I'm very picky, so I cook it for myself at home.

What is your favorite dish on your restaurant's menu?

Probably the barbecue platter [ribs, pulled pork, grilled dry-rubbed chicken and marinated steak tips].

— Emelia Attridge

Mango Cucumber Chicken Salad Cakes

From chef Shawn Jenness at The Farm.

- 1 red onion
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 3 cups chopped chicken meat
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ mango, peeled
- 1 cucumber, peeled
- ½ tablespoon fresh ground pepper
- 1 ounce mango liqueur
- ½ package of panko bread crumbs
- 3 cups bread crumbs
- ½ cup sugar

Chop onion, celery, chicken and mix with mayo, lemon juice and pepper. Blend the peeled cucumber with ½ peeled mango. Sauté the cucumber and mango with the mango liqueur and sugar until it becomes a light glaze. Mix glaze with chicken salad mixture, add bread crumbs until firm enough to make patties. Form patty and coat each side with panko bread crumbs. Sauté each side until golden. Serve over a bed of lettuce or on a sandwich.

Loudon Road, Concord, 229-0655, colegardens.com) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays until April 12 (no market on Dec. 28).

• **CONTOOCOOK** at Hopkinton Town Hall (330 Main St.) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays through May. Call 746-3749 or visit facebook.com/contocookfarmersmarket.

• **DEERFIELD** from 1 to 4 p.m. at Old Town Hall (10 Church St.) on every third Sunday of the month (Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 16, April 13). See farmersmarket.deerfield-nh.us.

• **DERRY** on the first and third Saturday of the month, until Sat., March 15, from 10 a.m. to

1 p.m. at the Upper Village Hall (52 E. Derry Road). Visit derry-nh.org.

• **EXETER** Saturdays, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8, and April 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Exeter High School, 315 Epping Road, Exeter. See seacoastlocal.org.

• **GREENLAND** Held on the first and third Saturday of the month through March 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Rolling Green Nursery (64 Breakfast Hill Road). See rollinggreen-nursery.com.

• **HENNIKER** at Community Center (57 Main St.), Thursdays, from 4 to 7 p.m. Visit henniker-farmersmarket.com.

• **MILFORD** in the Town Hall auditorium (1 Union Square) on the first and third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through April (markets in Feb. fall on the second and fourth Saturday). Go to milfordnhfarmersmarket.com.

• **NEWMARKET** at Newmarket High School (213 S. Main St.) on the first and third Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through April. See localharvest.org.

• **RAYMOND** at Lamprey River Elementary School (33 Old Manchester Road) on the third Saturday of the month through March, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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PERISHABLES

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Fresh pesto

I recently went to a party at my good friend's house and she served THE BEST lasagna ever. Like, so good I wished I hadn't eaten any of the delicious appetizers. I generally really like lasagna, but it's not something I go crazy over. This all changed at the party! What made this run of the mill dish so spectacular? Pesto! I'd never had pesto in my lasagna before, but after this experience it's going in every single one I make from now on.

Pesto originated in Italy's Liguria region, specifically in the city of Genoa. It's great with bread or pasta, served hot or cold. It's amazing on pizza, and, my goodness is it



good in lasagna. (Did I mention that?) While you can buy jars of pesto, nothing beats the fresh stuff. Using fresh basil leaves, a blend of good cheeses and your favorite olive oil — all blended together with pine nuts — makes for a seriously tasty sauce. There are plenty of ways to vary pesto (use walnuts instead of pine nuts, broccoli rabe instead of basil), but I swear by the original. Williams-Sonoma's recipe is great and easy to follow. — Allison Willson Dudas



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Lasagna with fresh pesto

- 1 (9-ounce) box of no-boil lasagna noodles
- 2 eggs
- 1 (15-ounce) container ricotta cheese
- 4 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese (optional)
- 1 pound ground beef or 1 pound sausage, browned
- spaghetti or pasta sauce
- parsley (to garnish)
- 1/2 cup fresh pesto (see recipe below)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Mix ricotta, eggs (beaten), Parmesan and two cups of the mozzarella cheese in a bowl. Add about 1/2 cup of pesto into this mixture. Spread 1 cup of pasta sauce in bottom of a 13x9 dish. Layer four lasagna noodles (they will overlap), 1/3 part of the ricotta cheese mixture, half the browned meat, 1 cup mozzarella cheese, and 1 cup of sauce. Next layer: four uncooked lasagna noodles, 1/3 part of the ricotta cheese mixture, and 1 1/2 cups sauce. Next layer: four uncooked lasagna noodles, remaining ricotta mixture and remained meat, 1 cup of sauce. Top layer: four uncooked lasagna noodles, remaining sauce, and remaining 1 cup mozzarella. Bake covered with foil 50-60 minutes. Uncover and continue cooking until all the cheese is melted on the top

(about 5 minutes). Let sit for about 15 minutes before serving.

Fresh Pesto, Recipe from Williams-Sonoma

- 3 to 4 Tbs. pine nuts
- 2 garlic cloves
- 2 to 3 cups firmly packed fresh basil leaves
- 10 to 15 fresh flat-leaf parsley sprigs
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more as needed
- 1/2 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
- 1/4 cup grated pecorino cheese
- Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

In a blender or food processor, combine the pine nuts and garlic. Process to chop coarsely. Add about half of the basil and process to chop coarsely. Add the remaining basil, the parsley and olive oil and process until a thick green sauce forms. If the sauce is too thin, add more basil or parsley; if it is too thick, add more olive oil. Add the cheeses and season with salt and pepper. Process briefly. Pour into a glass jar or other container and top with a thin layer of olive oil to prevent the surface from discoloring. Cover tightly and refrigerate for up to 2 weeks. Makes about 1 1/2 cups.

See raymondareanews.com.

- **ROLLINSFORD** Saturdays, Jan. 25, Feb. 22, March 22, and April 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wentworth Greenhouses, 141 Rollins Road, Rollinsford. See seacoastlocal.org.
- **SALEM** at Lake Street Garden Center (37 Lake St.) on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Jan. 5, Jan. 19, Feb. 2, Feb. 16, March 2, March 16, April 6, April 20, May 4, and May 18). Visit salemnhfarmersmarket.org.

- **TILTON** Saturdays and Sundays through March 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at AutoServ (67 E. Main St.). Visit tiltonwinterfarmersmarket.com.
- **WEARE** meets weekly on Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m. at the old Town Hall and Community Center (16 N. Stark Hwy.) through May 18. See harvesttomarket.com.

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Cheesy potatoes

During the holidays, I'm constantly shuffling back and forth between dinner parties and Yankee swaps, cocktail hours and Secret Santa exchanges. Between the driving and gift giving and dinner prepping, there never seems to be enough time or money left to splurge on new recipes with luscious ingredients.

But forget the truffle oil and caviar this season and get ready for the simplest, most delicious side dish you'll ever make. It can be made ahead and only requires four ingredients, none of which will break the bank. Plus, if by some odd chance your family or dinner guests don't devour an entire pan in one sitting, leftovers the next day are scrumptious.

I'm not even positive where the recipe for these potatoes came from. My mom started making them one year, I'm guessing on the recommendation of a friend. At first, I refused to even try them — I don't like two of the four ingredients on their own, so I had a hard time believing I would like the completed dish. More than a few helpings later I was stuffed and convinced my mom lied about the ingredients. How could mayonnaise, cheese and bacon do such sinfully delicious things to potatoes?

I have a cousin who hates mayonnaise and refuses to eat anything with the ingredient in or on it. So on vacation one year when my mom made the potatoes, we decided not to tell my cousin there was



mayonnaise in the dish. She had two helpings before we let her in on the secret, and though she was surprised, it didn't stop her from going back for thirds.

The "cheesy potatoes" quickly became a holiday tradition and rarely surface at other times of the year. The dish is rich with flavor (and calories), so keeping our consumption of them to a minimum always seems like the wise decision.

Occasionally at summer picnics with large crowds my mom will make the dish, and I recently tested them out for the first time at a small dinner party — to rave reviews.

The dish is flavorful, and the ingredients all combine so that no single taste overpowers another. And with a richness not usually found in simple potato side dishes, a little bit goes a long way to feed a hungry crowd. This recipe is deceptively delicious, so don't be surprised if people assume you spent hours in the kitchen creating it.

My favorite thing about this recipe is that it's not like other potato side dishes I've had before. It's not classic in the sense of mashed potatoes or seasonal like potato salad. But the recipe transforms basic potatoes into delectable bites in no time, which is ideal for any time of the year.

— Lauren Mifsud 🍷

Cheesy potatoes

- 1 5-pound bag Idaho potatoes
- 6 to 8 slices of bacon
- 1½ to 1¾ cups mayonnaise, depending on size of potatoes
- 8 to 10 ounces of Velveeta cheese

In a large pot add enough water to cover full, unpeeled potatoes. Boil the potatoes until fork-tender. Drain and let cool until cool enough to handle. Meanwhile, cook bacon until crispy enough to crumble into

small pieces (think bacon bits), and set aside. Cut the Velveeta cheese into cubes. Once the potatoes are cool enough to touch, remove the skin. It should peel right off just using your fingers. Once peeled, cube the potatoes, or break into pieces with your hands; multi-size chunks are fine. In a bowl, combine the potatoes, mayonnaise, cheese and half the bacon. Spread the mixture into a 9x13 pan and top with the remaining bacon. Bake on 375 degrees for about 35 minutes or until the cheese is melted and the dish is heated through.

\$100. See benediktdairy.com.

• **BROOKFORD FARM WINTER CSA** Offered through March. Shares vary and can include bread, eggs, veggies and meat. Pick up available at Brookford Farm Store on Thurs., 3 to 7 p.m. (250 West Rd, Canterbury), in Dover, Epsom, Exeter, Manchester, Nashua and Salem. Email brookfordfarm.csa@gmail.com or visit brookfordfarm.com.

• **HERON POND WINTER CSA** Weekly program through April. Cost for the full veggie share is \$550. See Heron Pond Farm (299 Main Ave., S. Hamp-

ton, 944-9405, heronpondfarm.com).

• **LOCAL HARVEST CSA** offer spring, summer and fall shares with a pick-up spot in Concord. localharvestnh.com.

• **MILES SMITH FARM** Offers naturally raised, pasture fed beef CSA shares. See miles-smithfarm.com.

• **WORK SONG FARM** Winter CSA shares start in Nov. Full share costs \$525 (family

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FOOD



JUST DESSERTS
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Poppy seed muffins



After the fudgy chocolate cookies, after the sticky candy canes, after the biting sweet icing on the gingerbread man cookies, and the never-ending stream of red and green M&Ms, perhaps it would be best if we didn't think about dessert right now.

But, since I am congenitally unable to not think about baking in some way, let us turn our attention to the kind of baked goods better enjoyed in the morning. Whether you are hosting a few friends for a post-Christmas gathering or hanging out on New Year's morning in your pajamas, you are going to need sustenance.

So let me introduce you to my new friend, the tangerine poppy seed muffin.

I have always found poppy seeds rather beautiful — tiny little nuggets or black or silvery blue. But I never had much use for them.

Poppy seeds most often show up sprinkled on bagels or floating in lemon-flavored Bundt cakes and quick breads. Poppy seed paste is also a common filling for hamantaschen, a triangular cookie traditionally eaten on the Jewish holiday of Purim. I must admit that I have generally found

these options uninspiring.

Then I came across a recipe in *The Smitten Kitchen Cookbook*, a recipe for plum poppy seed muffins. Author Deb Perelman spoke so enthusiastically of introducing poppy seeds to new horizons and letting them explore new fruit flavors that I added plums to my shopping list immediately.

Then the supermarket failed to have any of my chosen fruit and I was left searching for plan B. The answer? Two tangerines I already had in my fridge. Citrus is a perfect seasonal flavor this time of year and tangerines have a bright sweetness that would be perfect for my goal of baking something a little lighter than the desserts of recent days.

A few more tweaks to Perelman's recipe and I had these delightful little mid-morning treats. They are sweet but not cloying and laced through with the light nutty crunch of poppy seeds. I ate two fresh out of the oven, but if you feel like being a grown-up about it, they make a perfect light breakfast or accompaniment to an afternoon cup of tea. Enjoy. — Sarah Shemkus

Tangerine Poppy Seed Muffins

Generously adapted from The Smitten Kitchen Cookbook.

1½ cup flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons poppy seeds
6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled
1 large egg
¼ cup sugar
¼ cup light brown sugar
¾ cup sour cream
1 tablespoon grated tangerine peel
¼ cup fresh tangerine juice

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line 10 cups in a 12-cup muffin pan with paper liners. In a medium mixing bowl, mix together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and poppy seeds. In a separate, large mixing bowl, whisk together egg and sugars. Mix in melted butter, then sour cream, peel, and juice. Stir in dry ingredients just until moistened. Batter will be lumpy. Divide batter among prepared cups. Bake for 14 to 17 minutes, until just turning golden brown around the edges. Remove muffins from pan and cool on wire rack.

size), and half share costs \$235 (feeds one to two people). Pick-up available on Wed. from 3 to 7 p.m. or Sat. from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Beech Hill Farm (107 Beech Hill Road, Hopkinton). Veggie shares, but bread and meat offerings available. Call 219-0297 or visit worksong-farm.com.

Food maps/tours

• **BREWRIES AROUND** Seacoast, Merrimack Valley, northern NH and the Monad-

nock region all boast breweries, and vistnh.gov features a map for touring pleasure.

• **CHOCOLATE AND MARTINI TOUR** Travel east to west hitting some of the best martini-producing restaurants and best sweet-producing chocolatiers in NH. Visit visitnh.gov.

• **FOOD MAPS** The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire offers an online Farm & Food Map, which lists member farms, local restaurants and other

businesses supporting organic agriculture; sort by location or product type. Visit nofanh.org or have list your farm listed by becoming a member, call 224-5022.

• **ICE CREAM TRAIL** Granite State Dairy Promotion's New Hampshire Ice Cream Trail is an annually updated map highlighting shops and stands that use NH dairy products. Call 271-3696, email gsdp@com-cast.net, or go to nhdairypromo.org for a copy.

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FOOD

Lucky 13

Cask & Vine celebrates small business with special tap

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

There are only 12 taps at the bar at Cask & Vine in Derry, but once a month owner Andy Day will reveal what's on tap on "Tap 13" to exclusive members of his Tap 13 crew.

Tap 13 is a club of sorts. One day a month from January through June, members will visit Cask & Vine for a chance to try the secret beer on tap before visiting another local business, like Sizzle Bistro in Manchester, Strikers East Bowling in Raymond or Amphora in Derry.

"It's sort of like a small business initiative," Day said. "The idea behind this is about people that enjoy people and want to go and support small business."

For Day, it's like taking friends out to see other friends — taking regular and dedicated Cask & Vine diners out to learn about other independent businesses and restaurants in southern New Hampshire.

"We were having our beach week — we had brought in six tons of sand and filled the floor with sand — it was the same people coming in and having such a good time," Day said about when he got the idea for a new initiative. "It's kind of a crazy idea a little bit, because why would you bring your customers [in and then] bring them someplace else? ... There's nothing bad in it. We're supporting others."

Day pitched the idea to regular customers at Cask & Vine and got a great response.

Tap 13

Where: Cask & Vine (1½ E. Broadway, Derry, 965-3454)

Cost: \$20 to sign up; register before the new year

Visit: caskandvine.com/tap13

Drink

Beer/wine/liquor tastings

- **TUCKERMAN** tasting on Thurs., Jan. 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Beer Store, 433 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-2242, thebeerstorenh.com.
- **OSKAR BLUES** tasting on Thurs., Jan. 23, from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Beer Store, 433 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-2242, thebeerstorenh.com.
- **ALLAGASH** tasting on Thurs., Jan. 23, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Barb's Beer Emporium, 249 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, 369-4501, barbsbeeremporium.com.
- **NARRAGANSETT** tasting on Thurs., Jan. 30, from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Beer Store, 433 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-2242, thebeerstorenh.com.

Beer/wine dinners

- **PERRIER JOUET WINE DINNER** Wed., Jan. 29, at 6:30 p.m. at Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com). Cost \$95 per person (plus tax and gratuity).
- **GAME DINNER** with White Birch Brewing on Wed., Jan. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at Cask & Vine (1½ E. Broadway, Derry, 965-3454, caskandvine.com). Reservations required.

Beer/wine festivals and special events

- **CELLAR NOTES** Wed., Jan. 29, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Puritan Conference & Event Center (245 Hooksett Road, Manchester) seminar-style wine tasting with four leading

wine experts, including President and Co-Founder of Folio Wines (Spellbound), co-owner of Klinker Brick Wines, Ravenswood winemaker Joel Peterson and the owner of HandCraft Artisan Collection Wines. Tickets cost \$35; limited seating. Call 1-888-368-8880.

- **EASTER SEALS WINTER WINE SPECTACULAR** Thurs., Jan. 30, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm St., Manchester. Features over 1,500 wine varieties to sample and food from local restaurants. Cost \$65 per person, and full access tickets to the Grand Tasting and Bellman's Cellar Select costs \$125 per person. Proceeds benefit Easter Seals of NH. Visit eastersealsnh.org.
- **ICE BAR** Wed., Feb. 5, at



Cask & Vine owners Andy Day and Alana Wentworth. Emelia Attridge photo.

The original eight VIP memberships were quickly filled — those lucky eight will get transportation from Cask & Vine to the second location in a limousine. There are still limited Tap 13 memberships available, but those members will have to find their own rides.

"We have a really dedicated group who just jumped on the idea," Day said. "You have to get yourself there on your own power, but we're going to buy the first round of drinks."

At the end of the six months, Day hopes there will be even more interest in the initiative so he can start up a second Tap 13 program.

"We also wanted people that were going to be committed ... who believe in what we're doing," Day said. "In a big box world we all kind of have to stick together and support one another. ... We're picking these places with a purpose."

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The year in drinks

Reminiscing about the good and bad of 2013

By Stefanie Phillips
food@hippopress.com

As my second year comes to a close as the Hippo's drinks columnist, I am happy to reflect on the experiences I have had and how lucky I am to be able to write this column every week.

We have such a great group of winemakers and brewers in this state. This year, I was able to meet some new people and was happily welcomed to try their wine or beer and hear their stories.

Once again this year, I started off by attending two great wine events, with both benefiting area charities. The first was the **Easter Seals Wine Spectacular** in Manchester, followed by the **Heart of the Grape** in Concord, a benefit for the Genetic Counseling Program at Concord Hospital's Breast Care Center. I love events like this, because they always give me the opportunity to try and discover new wines.

In May, I had the chance to attend **Hermit Woods Winery's Wine Release Dinner**. A group of us tried some wines at the winery in Sanbornton, followed by a wine pairing dinner from Local Eatery Chef Kevin Halligan, held at Lake House at Ferry Point down the road. This was an amazing experience, and I was thankful to be part of it and have the chance to try Hermit Woods' wines, which sold out quickly throughout the season.

Hermit Woods has outgrown its current Sanbornton location and has purchased a property in downtown Meredith. The owners are hoping to have their new winery and tasting room ready to open in late January. Visit their website and Facebook pages for updates.

Sweet Baby Vineyard in Kingston released its new brand earlier this year, featuring a new logo and wine labels. They also released two new wines, a cabernet sauvignon and a pinot grigio. I had the chance to try both at their Label Release Party and was very impressed.

This summer, my family once again held a **group sangria tasting**. My aunt and I concoct several sangrias using our own recipes and let family members vote on their favorites. This has become a vacation tradition that I hope continues. It's fun to hear their feedback and have them guess

what is in each recipe.

The third annual **Lakes Region Barrel Tasting Weekend** was a huge success again this year despite cold, rainy weather. Wineries open their doors to guests, who have the chance to try wines still going through the aging process. Participating wineries included Coffin Cellars in Webster, Hermit Woods, Haunting Whisper Vineyards in Danbury, Gilmanton Winery, Newfound Lake Vineyards in Bristol, Sap House Meadery in Ossipee and Stone Gate Vineyard in Gilford. This is my favorite event of the year, and if you haven't attended yet, I highly recommend saving the date in 2014.

Stone Gate Vineyard, one of my favorite wineries, closed its doors at the end of its 2013 season. Owners Peter and Jane Ellis were ready to retire and spend more time with their family. But not all is lost, as **Haunting Whisper** will be making Stone Gate's grapes into wine. I wish the Ellises nothing but the best and hope they have finally had a chance to sit down and relax with a glass of good wine.

I finally visited **Jewell Towne Vineyards** in South Hampton and repeatedly asked myself what took me so long. They have a beautiful property and vineyard, cozy tasting room and really great wines. I already knew I liked their wine, but was able to try a few different wines in the tasting room. Their staff is so great and helpful with suggestions. I have already gone back and am looking forward to many more visits.

My year wasn't spent just tasting wine. I also attended a few beer events, including an open house at **White Birch Brewing**, the **Southern New Hampshire Brewers' Festival** and a private tasting for **Able Ebenezer Brewing Company**, opening in the spring. All of these events gave me the opportunity to try new beers, and I was pleasantly surprised. I had a great time at the Brewers' Festival and am looking forward to visiting the Able Ebenezer tasting room in Merrimack.

With the holiday season winding down, I have enjoyed sharing wine with family and friends. A good bottle of wine brings people together and enables great conversation. I am so thankful for everything I have been able to do and experience this year and am looking forward to an equally exciting 2014. 🍷

Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com).

Beer/wine classes
• **HAPPY NEW BEERS** Thurs., Jan. 9, at 6 p.m. at IncrediBREW

(112 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, 891-2477, incrediBREW.com). Cost \$35 for variety case, bottles included.
• **NEW YEAR'S WINEFEST** Fri., Jan. 10, at 6 p.m. at IncrediBREW (112 Daniel Webster

Hwy., Nashua, 891-2477, incrediBREW.com). Cost \$60 for six bottles of wine.

Weekly/monthly tastings
• **ATTREZZI** 78 Market St., Portsmouth, 427-1667, attrez-

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Bottles for the budget-conscious wine-lover

New Year's Eve means it's time to uncork some bubbly. But does it have to be Champagne?

Though there are good Champagnes (that is, sparkling wine from the Champagne region of France) for less than the \$230 you'd pay for a bottle of Moët & Chandon Dom Perignon Rose, there are also some non-Champagne but Champagne-like options available for right around \$20.

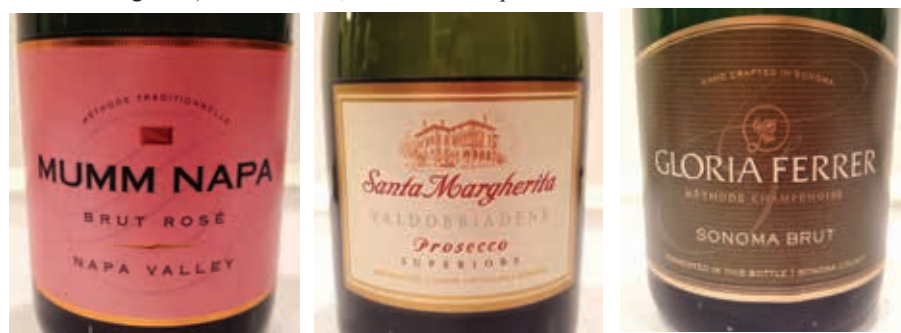
The **Santa Margherita Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superior** (on sale for \$19.99, regularly priced \$23.99) is an Italian sparkling wine that, like most proseccos, is more crisp than French Champagne tends to be. Crisp but also not particularly tart and surprisingly full, this prosecco is actually a good pick for those looking for something with more of the roundness you can get from Champagne. Pale gold in color, this wine has aromas of apple as well as toasted notes. Like most sparkling wines, it was tasty on its own but it also went well with some sugar cookies.

The **Mumm Brut Rosé** from Napa Valley (on sale for \$16.99, regularly priced at \$19.99) is a good example of a California take on sparkling wine. Pretty pale pink in color, this wine has hints of floral notes and yeasty aromas (as you'd get with traditional Champagne, though the yeastiness is not as strong here). Flavor-wise, the wine

actually sits right in between sweet and dry — there are some pretty Champagne flavors here, but the wine itself isn't sweet. It's full with some yeastiness, an overall easy sipper that won't disappoint Champagne fans.

We also picked up a bottle of **Gloria Ferrer Sonoma Brut** (on sale for \$18.99, regularly priced at \$20.99), one of our favorite good-value California sparkling wines. This warm gold-y pink colored wine is the color you usually see things labeled "champagne" color. On the nose, we got notes of oaky toastiness, yeastiness and something that is faintly sweet and tart — citrus notes, one of us said; the other said raspberry. "You're not going to find many things that give you this much fun for \$20" was what one of us said about the flavor. The wine blends the champagne fullness and yeastiness with a very pleasant tartness that keeps it from feeling heavy, and while the wine isn't sweet, it has flavors that hint at sweet-tart things. (Citrus? Raspberry? Some kind of raspberry-lime rickey? Either way, it's not at all sugary, just flavorful.) An all-around lovely, bubbly glass of wine, the Gloria Ferrer is a nice way to toast to the end of 2013 and the beginning of a new year.

Each week in "Red, White & Green," the wine-lovers taste red and white wines that sell for not too much of the green, less than \$20. The goal? To find a good bottle without breaking the bank. Unless otherwise noted, the prices listed are what you'll find the bottles selling for at the New Hampshire Wine & Liquor Outlet. 🍷



zinh.com, Fridays at 3 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m.

• **BUTTER'S** Weekly wine tastings at Butter's Fine Food and Wine, 249 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, 225-5995, buttersfinefood.com. Usually Tuesdays, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., times and days vary.

• **DOVER WINE STORE** 364 Central Ave., Dover, 742-WINE (9463), doverwine.com, on Fridays, 4 to 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m.

• **DURHAM MARKET-PLACE** 7 Mill Road, Durham, 868-2500, holds wine tasting on Fridays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

• **HOLY GRAIL PINT NIGHTS** Thurs., 8 to 11 p.m.,

at the Holy Grail Restaurant and Pub (64 Main St., Epping, 679-9559) Sponsoring beer is sold at special price and drinkers get to keep a promotional glass. Check out holygrailrestaurantandpub.com for upcoming beers.

• **LUCIAS BODEGA** Taste craft beer on Fridays 4-8 p.m. and fine wines on Thursdays 4-8 p.m. and Saturdays noon-6 p.m. at Lucia's Bodega (30 Indian Rock Road, Windham, 421-9463). Details at luciasbodega.com.

• **IN THE MIX KITCHEN SERIES** at New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets superstore (25 Coliseum Ave., Nashua) with local restaurants pairing meals with wine and spirits.

Free, noon to 2 p.m. every Saturday.

• **NH LIQUOR STORES** statewide host wine-tastings and promotional events. See nh.gov/liquor/mkvent.shtml.

• **SIDEWAYS TASTING** WineNot, 70 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, will hold a "sideways" wine tasting on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. The tastings will present wines from an individual distributor to be tasted side by side.

• **VINO AROMAS** 998 Elm St., Manchester, 626-8466, vino-aromas.com, offers "Wines Around the World" every Sat. from 4 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$10. They also offer tastings every Thurs. from 5 to 7 p.m.

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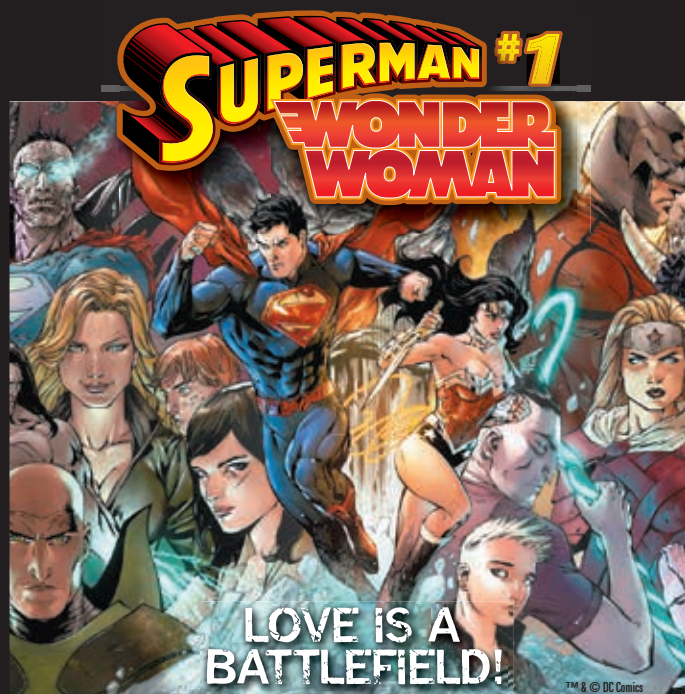
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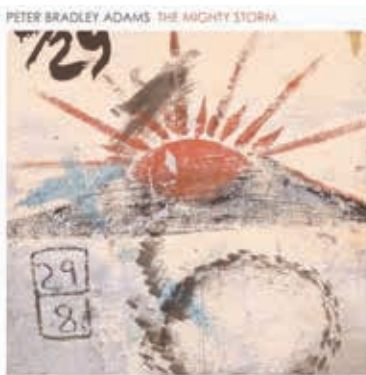
To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Kelly Sennott at ksennott@hippopress.com. To get author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

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POP CULTURE

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Peter Bradley Adams, *The Mighty Storm* (I Me Mine Records)



The fourth full-length from the former Eastmountainsouth co-leader is, once again, an irresistible study in warm Americana unencumbered by quirk or gimmickry. His 2006 debut LP *Gather Up* was what roped me in — I imagine I've talked about this before — and I raved about it, and now he's firmly in the bigs, having toured with Tracy Chapman and Joan Baez and hearing his songs playing in the background on network TV shows like *Alias* and *One Tree Hill*. His voice, slathered in honey like always, wraps itself around his usual sweet spots, new-jack Stephen Foster-like hymns that waft into your soul, especially when he emits those faraway slide-guitar layers of his. The title track is a bit of a departure, slightly muddy, like a male version of Chapin Sisters on a Baptist tip, but other than that it's the usual thing. If Adams ever starts to rock it up a little bit, Amos Lee had better watch his back. **A** — *Eric W. Saeger*

Painted Palms, *Forever* (Polyvinyl Records)



This Louisiana duo offers a nice alternative to the cool-but-too-chilled stuff you hear from such wombats as Braids and STRFKR. Not that there isn't a half-awake who-cares-ness to their state-of-the-art indie; Of Montreal's Kevin Barnes discovered them, so to speak, after their *Canopy* record, and nearly all of this new stuff, despite the relatively high level of loudness, does sound like varied attempts to write hazy bubblepop for Target commercials (which is all you happily unemployed Millennials expect from rock 'n' roll, right?). The glitch layers are interesting (old-school Steve Miller-like kitsch-effects in opener "Too High," circuit-bending emulation in "Hypnotic"), and I can't quibble with the hooks, which are catchier than one would hope for in a proposition that involves combining Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr.'s noises, OK Go's exuberance and hayloft-indie's ambivalence. **A** — *Eric W. Saeger*

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

No new releases at all for next week, so I suppose we should sort of preview a few more potluck things in all their glory. The great thing about 2014 is that it's not 2013, which was horrible in so many ways, like a *Groundhog Day* from hell. So here's a few random who-cares things to look forward to in 2014, as the seas rise and the Rapture approaches.

- The first thing that caught my eye was *Education, Education & War*, the new album from UK sports-bar-oi purveyors **Kaiser Chiefs**, who haven't registered a pulse since "Angry Mob." That streak now includes the first single from this album, "Misery Company," a song that sounds like a slowed-down Gang of Four trying to make Elvis Costello bored. Anyway, that album comes out on April 1.

- The best news is that there's a new **Elbow** album coming out on March 10. Titled *Carry Her Carry Me*, this will be their first since 2011's *Build a Rocket Boys*, which was all sorts of cool for so many reasons. If you haven't heard this band, they admire Peter Gabriel and Radiohead simultaneously, and they've sung songs about poor teenagers wearing hoodies and why wearing a hoodie doesn't mean you're going to rob the 7-Eleven, you just want a Coke, or maybe some Slim Jims. Stop judging. I can't stand when people get quick impressions of something and make up their minds that it's bad. Disclaimer that this does not apply to people judging Kaiser Chiefs albums, because expecting the worst is the best approach there.

- Swedish hip-pop diva **Neneh Cherry** is 50 next year, can you barely handle that? Remember her song "Buffalo Stance?" Wasn't it cool in *Slaves of New York* when that song was playing in the elevator, or did you not notice that scene because you were wondering why you were watching a movie in which Bernadette Peters was an edgy art sloth? Regardless, Neneh Cherry's next album is called *Blank Project*, and it'll be out on Feb. 25. Four Tet is the main collaborator, so this should be (spoiler alert) a weird album, which you would never have guessed.

- Popular Australian metal-core oafs **I Killed The Prom Queen** release their third album, *Beloved*, in mid-February. There will be much yelling and oafing on this album, I can almost guarantee it. — *Eric W. Saeger*

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A so-so year of music

The good, the bad and the ugly of 2013

By Eric W. Saeger
listings@hippopress.com

2013 was like Son of 2012 in a lot of ways. Musically, 2013's version of **Fun** was, well, nothing, as that band sat out the year, presumably writing more big-pop songs that won't be as good as the stuff on *Some Nights*.

With the huge-radio-hit space completely empty, no one tried to do anything with it, except for the usual suspects, **Gaga** and **Katy Perry**, both of whom phoned their albums in while having their nails done. Safely kept in the public eye by billions of PR-payola dollars, both girls made crummy albums, hung out with the Muppets (Gaga will be in next year's movie) and called it a year. While all this was going on, **Carrie Underwood** delivered the *Glee* coup-de-grace to American culture by destroying *The Sound of Music* in the hands-down Fail of the Year.

There's nothing to blame for hilarious belly-flops like this but corporate synergy, really. The only book I had time to read this year was Naomi Klein's *No Logo*, and I'm glad I did, being that it helped me recognize that what's going on is branding on a massive, sinister scale. Part of rock-star branding these days is the complete opposite of the mystique-shrouded vibe of yesteryear, where you wondered which one of these people is doing the most drugs. Katy and Gaga are too busy being the Coke and Pepsi of underdog empowerment to do any drugs at all. We know **Miley** and **Biebs** are doing

drugs, but you sort of suspect they're down to dosing on Flintstones Chewables: the fake reefers were too edgy, and crunk tastes yucky.

Miley twerked, and the jaws of the world hit the floor in response. There are YouTube videos of people being polled about their response to Miley's lunkheaded public overture to the talent-challenged **Robin Thicke**, and the responses are all either "Hannah Montana should have aged more gracefully" or "You go, um, girl, I guess, I believe everyone has the right to experiment with stupidity."

Behind all this, of course, as always, is The Man, making co-sponsorship deals, gauging possible synergies, making pitches. Millennials, barraged with buying signals, go to concerts and aren't sure if they're there to see a band or a giant-sized T-Mobile animated graphic. What's worrying — or funny — is that The Man really wants us to think the two products are the same thing. Where does this end? Stay unsold, my friends. 🍷

CDs to look forward to in 2014

Elbow: *Carry Her, Carry Me* (this is guaranteed not to suck)

Limp Bizkit, *Stampede of the Disco Elephants* (this may suck, but no one can be sure yet)

The Cult (title TBA) (this is their last chance to make another good album, it really is)

The Horrors (title TBA) (see previous)

Linkin Park (title TBA) (I didn't hate their last couple of albums as much as you did)

Recommended 2013 albums, in No Particular Order

This list is probably woefully incomplete but includes all the ones that inspired me to keep writing run-on sentences for you about the dead art of non-classical music.

Wire, *Change Becomes Us* (80s post-punk, my personal LP of the Year choice)

Milosh, *Jetlag* (reverent chill-tech)

Io Echo, *Ministry of Love* (Enigma-ish shoe-goth-gaze)

Yellowjackets, *Rise in the Road* (prog jazz. Love these guys 4-eva. I've forced this on the wife so many times she can hum the first few bars)

Flaming Lips, *The Terror* (introspective Flaming Lips-ish Flaming Lipsishness)

Drifting Son, *One Down* (local Manchvegas blues-metal)

Deafheaven, *Sunbather* (hilariously over-rated black metal that may kill the genre once and for all — well done)

Glasvegas, *Later When the TV Turns to Static* (defiant Scottish oi-indie)

TV Ghost, *Disconnect* (Bauhaus 2.0 dance-gloom)

Kings of Leon, *Mechanical Bull* (arena-indie)

Goldfrapp, *Tales of Us* (verbose down-chill)

Tony Joe White, *Hoodoo* (mumbled mud-blues)

Joanna Gruesome, *Weird Sister* (a more punked-up Ting Tings)

Tomahawk, *Oddfellows* (no-wave-ified nu-metal)

Cheetahs, *Extended Plays* (these guys mop the floor with Trail of Dead, but still no one knows them)

Smoke Fairies, *Blood Speaks* (Chapin Sisters-ish ren-fair ghost-folk)

Skinny Puppy, *Weapon* (darkwave. Their best LP since 2004.)

The Icarus Line, *Slave Vows* (head-drug metallic no-wave, and remember, they graffitied the Strokes' tour bus, which automatically makes them gods)

ILLLS, *Hideout From the Feeders* (post-punk waves pastiche)

Bucky Fereke, *Give Me All of My Apostrophes Angels* (messy local blues nutjob)

Warlocks, *Skull Worship* (skronk-rock)

The Bronx, *IV* (all-ages math-oi)

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GAMER REVIEWS

Worth playing

The best games of 2013

In no particular order, and with no claim of unassailable superiority, here are the games I found exceptionally enjoyable this year. Throw your money at them before your cool gamer friends disavow you!

Monaco: What's yours is mine (PC/360)

Pocketwatch Games' top down stealth action multiplayer co-op (with a throwback Atari-esque art style) has been making me drool for years at convention demo booths. Finally they released it and, surprise, it is a charming, frantic and exciting action game. If you are interested in an original take on stealth games, check it out.

Mascarade (tabletop card game)

Bruno Faidutti's most recent release is a large group (six or more players, ideally), hidden role/bluffing card game. Each player is attempting to use the character card's unique power afforded him to earn 13 gold, but you can totally lie about who you are and what you can do. Limiting your action to swapping identities with foes, activating an ability or inspecting your own identity make every round of this wonderful tabletop game engrossing.

The Cave (PC/PS3/360/WiiU/iOS)

Double Fine's side-scrolling puzzle platformer is a sweet homage to classic Sierra adventure games and modern indie puzzlers. The twist is that you choose a team of characters who must use their unique skills to navigate the titular cave and explore its mysteries. *The Cave* is a charming game with a hefty amount of replayability that knows what it is trying to execute and does so flawlessly.

Saints Row 4 (PC/PS3/360)

Man, sometimes stupid is so overwhelming that you have to succumb to it like a force of nature. Volition's latest entry isn't the best *Saint's Row* game, oddly enough, but it is the best *Grand Theft Auto* (or more accurately *Crackdown*) mutation to ever shoot gravity-reversing energy blasts from its fists.

Forbidden Desert (boardgame)

Matt Leacock, designer of *Pandemic*, returned this year with the entry-level cooperative survival board game sequel to *Forbidden Island*. *Desert* ups the complexity and challenge of *Island* while adding the twist of a constantly shifting modular board. I was surprised how this game kept

me on my mental toes throughout 2013.

Boss Monster (boardgame)

A dungeon-building card game where players compete to create the lethalist five-room meat grinder. As a 1980s style fantasy monster, you lure an increasingly difficult series of adventurers to your dungeon and, hopefully, to their doom. The ability to sequence room abilities and interrupt opponent dungeons is well-balanced and fun.

Space Cadets: Dice Duel (boardgame)

From the outside it might look like "Yelling & Rolling Dice: The Game" but *Space Cadets: DD* is far more clever than that. Two teams play opposing starships and must frantically coordinate their dice rolls and power allocation to outmaneuver and outfight one another.

Guacamelee! (PC/PS3/Vita)

Luchadors!?! Yes, please. This Mexican wrestling and Dia de Muertos Metroidvania has an outstanding art style, a satisfying snap to its platforming controls and surprisingly deep combat mechanics.

Shadowrun Returns (PC/iOS)

Harebrained Schemes did right by the classic isometric RPG from the 16-bit era. The schizophrenic world of *Shadowrun* (think *Blade Runner* + *Lord of the Rings*) takes a certain balance of chutzpah to pull off without seeming irredeemably dorky, and *Shadowrun Returns* makes it work.

DOTA 2 (PC/Mac)

MOBAs (don't ask) are a huge deal in the nascent "eSports" world. But don't let that, or the absurdly steep learning curve, scare you off. *DOTA 2* might be perfect? While I've logged far too many hours getting labeled a feeder and ruining my team's chances, it is an amazingly strategic and rewarding game. — Glenn Given

Glenn is a writer, designer and game maker. You can find more of his reviews at gamesbyplaydate.com.

5 to look forward to

Belle of the Ball

Daniel Solis' Kickstarted card game of scheming and social legerdemain at a fancy pants party looks like a rich and deep card game, and I expect no less.

Dead of Winter

The semi-coop board game of alliances, survival and becoming a pariah has many gamers buzzing.

Titanfall

If the 25-ton robot warmachine doesn't interest you, then perhaps the ability to scamper and parkour up its back might.

These French Fries Are Terrible Hot Dogs

Philly designer Shawn Pierre's party game where you must lie by telling the truth. It's ridiculously fun.

Transistor

The spiritual follow-up to Supergiant Games' isometric action game elegantly incorporates turn-based strategy mechanics into the *Bastion* template.

How to solve a murder?

Lisa Gardner says you must *Fear Nothing*

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

What if you couldn't feel physical pain?

It's the question New Hampshire writer Lisa Gardner pondered while she envisioned her latest book, *Fear Nothing*. It was prompted by an article she read in The New Yorker about a girl who suffered a genetic mutation with this effect.

"I'd never heard of anything like it," Gardner said in a phone interview. "I confess, I myself have been a sufferer of chronic pain since my early 30s. The idea of going through life completely pain-free sounded amazing. But then you read about these kids; it's really terrible. Most of them don't live past age 3."

But pain, she said, is an indicator that something is wrong; children who suffer from pain sensory disorders have a high

mortality rate and few live to adulthood. The children who do make it don't live normal childhoods. They must, as does a main character in *Fear Nothing*, find other ways to register threats to their physical well-being and avoid those threats.

"I read about how alienating it can be, not to feel something that everyone else knows. At that moment, I thought, 'That's the book,'" Gardner said.

But it wouldn't be a Lisa Gardner book without a murder to solve. *Fear Nothing*, set to be released Jan. 7, follows two sisters, Adeline Glen and Shana Day, who couldn't be more different. One, Adeline, can't feel pain; the other, Shana, can't feel empathy. They were raised separately because of Adeline's genetic SCN9a mutation (which their foster mother discovered when Adeline was 3, when Shana slashed scissors across her sister's forearm and Adeline didn't react).

They lived opposite lives. Adeline became a doctor. Shana became a murderer at 14. Blood is the only commonality between the two — more specifically, the blood they share with their father, Harry Day, an infamous serial killer who's been dead for years.

But this common link comes to surface

Meet Lisa Gardner

She has a book launch event at **Horsefeathers Restaurant** (with White Birch Books) at 2679 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, 356-2687, on Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 6:30 p.m., and at **Barnes & Noble**, 45 Gosling Road, Newington, 422-7733, on Monday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m.



and becomes extremely important in solving a series of murders that occur 30 years after Shana's first killing, all of which contain the same trackings: a bottle of champagne and a single red rose. In Gardner's eighth book starring the detective, D.D. Warren seeks help from these sisters in tracking down the killer who, according to the book's description, seems to know something about Harry Day that he shouldn't.

Fear Nothing, Gardner said, follows her standard crime fiction formula: murder, suspense, climax and resolution. But there's a little more, too.

"*Fear Nothing*, at the end of the day, is about family. You have one sister who can't feel pain, another who can't feel empathy. Both are survivors of this house of horrors, as their father was one of the most notorious serial killers," Gardner said. "One was successful, cultured, well-edu-

cated, and the other sister, frankly, went to follow her father's footsteps."

"But there's a bond. ... She [Adeline] keeps visiting her sister once a month. ... They're so unlike, but they just plain need each other," Gardner said.

It's not always easy coming up with her books' scenarios. If you've been to North Conway recently, you might have seen Gardner trying to solve the mystery herself. She often brainstorms by hiking outside.

Gardner, an Oregon native who moved to North Conway about 10 years ago, says it's always a leap of faith writing a book, particularly a mystery novel. Though she's written nearly 30 novels (the first of which was published when she was 20), it never seems to get easier.

"You have to have faith sooner or later that it will make sense," she said.

But she often meets people who help it to make sense; she's a self-described "research junkie," which, she admits, could be just plain procrastination, but she enjoys picking real detectives' brains during the writing process. These detectives, national and local, often end up influencing the plot of her book.

"I've met very smart and forthcoming people. ... It's interesting to me how I think I'm being cool and clever, and they can often solve the case in five pages or less. ... They give me the real-world procedure. ... I like to think it's fun for the experts, too, because they get to show off how much they know. With fictional crime, you don't have to worry about saying too much. Normally it's really difficult for detectives to talk about their job," Gardner said. 🍷

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Top 10 Self Improvement

For the week of Dec. 16
(barnesandnoble.com)

- 1

David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants
By Malcolm Gladwell
Hardcover, October 2013
- 2

The Charge: Activating the 10 Human Drives That Make You Feel Alive
By Brendon Burchard
Hardcover, May 2012
- 3

Staying Strong: 365 Days a Year
By Demi Lovato
Hardcover, November 2013
- 4

StrengthsFinder 2.0
By Tom Rath
Hardcover, February 2007
- 5

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking
By Susan Cain
Paperback, January 2013
- 6

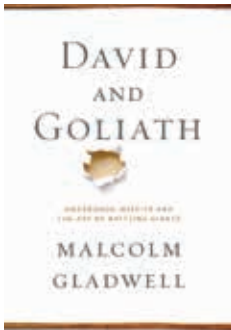
Daily Rituals: How Artists Work
By Mason Currey (Editor)
Hardcover, April 2013
- 7

Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead
By Brene Brown
Hardcover, September 2012
- 8

The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You're Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are
By Brene Brown
Paperback, October 2010
- 9

The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom
By Don Miguel Ruiz
Paperback, November 1997
- 10

An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth: What Going to Space Taught Me About Ingenuity, Determination, and Being Prepared for Anything
By Chris Hadfield
Hardcover, October 2013



The year in books

Another year, another Janet Evanovich novel. (Or two.) That's predictable as mud in March, as was the success of Dan Brown's *Inferno*, Sheryl Sandberg's *Lean In*, and J.K. Rowling-writing-as-Robert-Galbraith's *The Cuckoo's Calling*.

In a world in which a million new titles are released every year, thousands of excellent books get short shrift, elbowed aside by splashier titles even if they briefly inhabit bestseller lists. Among this year's dwarfed stars were a memoir about a body-building librarian with Tourette syndrome, an examination of what makes a home a dwelling, and a profanity-laced testament to "living out loud" by a former alcoholic turned mother of four.

Of the 2013 releases that The Hippo reviewed this year, here are six of our favorites:

The End of Night, by Paul Bogard (Little, Brown and Co., 271 pages)

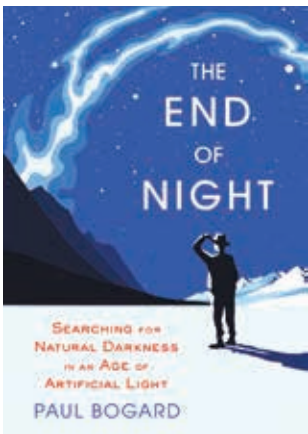
Three thousand stars should be visible to the human eye, but because of light pollution, most people see a few hundred of them, if that. The incessant illumination that is characteristic of modern life costs us in other ways too, detailed here in an absorbing journey, the author's search for darkness in an age of artificial light. The concerns are not merely aesthetic. The issues raised here include the physical maladies that affect third-shift workers whose schedules interrupt circadian rhythms; the disruption of migratory patterns, and the deaths of tens of thousands of birds as artificial light and structures disrupt ancient patterns; the inability of humans to distinguish rational from irrational fears. Part journalism, part memoir, *The End of Night* is a book that will compel you not just to read,

but to turn off some lights. **Lake People, by Abi Maxwell (Alfred A. Knopf, 210 pages)**

Abi Maxwell grew up in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire, where this hauntingly beautiful novel is set. Formerly an assistant librarian at the Gilford Public Library, she's now apparently writing full-time, and deservedly so. This novel excels among not just the region's fiction offerings, but the nation's. Alice Thornton, the endearing protagonist, is a woman in search of answers: why she was adopted, why she was raised without a mother, why strangers so often hint of what seems a shameful backstory, why she feels so strangely drawn to the glittering, deadly Bear Lake. "*I like to think my birth parents believed that this lake would hold me, keep me safe, but I don't see how that could possibly be true, for it turns out I come from a long line of people swallowed by these waters.*" *Lake People* is about families, the secrets they keep and the ones they reluctantly tell. It's home-grown page-turner with rare power to transfix.

Carry On, Warrior, by Glennon Doyle Melton (Scribner, 266 pages)

The world is full of bloggers hoping to score a book deal and a rabid following; Glennon Doyle Melton is one of a handful who actually succeed. Her blog is Momastery.com, and *Carry On, Warrior* is the sum of its parts. Melton is a recovering bulimic, alcoholic and drug user who stumbled into a storybook family because of an unplanned



pregnancy. She stopped hiding her past when she realized how few women are honest with each other because they're "too busy talking about important things, like soccer practice and highlights." Now, she "lives out loud" to encourage other people to stop pretending that everything's so damned perfect. "Life without touching other people is boring as hell," says Melton in this memoir that is compul-

sively readable and hoot-out-loud funny.

World's Strongest Librarian, by Josh Hanagarne (Gotham, 288 pages)

An improbable memoir about an improbable guy, *The World's Strongest Librarian* is the story of a skeptical Mormon with Tourette syndrome who becomes a librarian and takes up extreme body-building in the hope of alleviating his debilitating (and noisy) tics. Yeah. But it works. It all bubbles merrily into one fascinating stew of a life, engrossing even if you share nothing in common with the author. Hanagarne is like kittens on YouTube — utterly endearing. After a few chapters, we look at him like his fiancée eventually will, "the way Fern looked down on Wilbur the pig when he was in the stroller." This is the best kind of a memoir, an honest one, not about the big things in life, but the little.

Dwelling in Possibility, by Howard Mansfield (Bauhan Publishing, 217 pages)

The second New Hampshire author on this list, Hancock resident Howard Mansfield earned sustained applause with a quirky, melodic look about what our homes

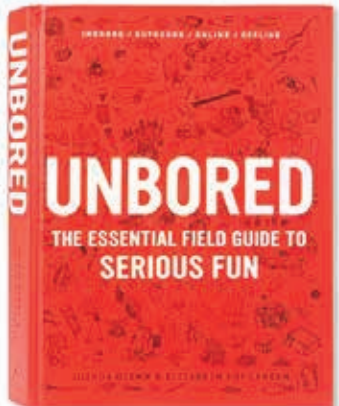
CHILDREN'S ROOM

A weekly recommendation from the Concord Public Library

Unbored: The Essential Field Guide to Serious Fun

Written by Joshua Glenn and Elizabeth Foy Larsen, 2012
(Non-fiction, grades 5-8)

When school vacation starts to seem a little too long, break out this book! *Unbored* is chock full of ideas, activities, articles, lists, experiments, and much more. Something for everyone!



OUT NEXT WEEK

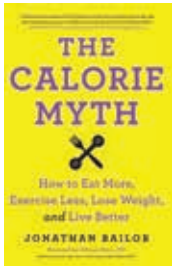
The Calorie Myth: How to Eat More, Exercise Less, Lose Weight, and Live Better

By Jonathan Bailor

Hits shelves: Dec. 31
Author best known for: Being a personal trainer, running a wellness consulting business and working as a senior program manager for Microsoft

One-sentence

review: "Readers certainly won't hurt themselves by following his convoluted program, but they might do better elsewhere." — Publishers Weekly



reveal about us. Despite some bewildering detours through topical landmines, this is an enchanting and deeply intelligent book that suggests Americans' ongoing obsession with home décor and improvements reveals a paucity of soul. Do we just live in a house, or do we dwell in it? The answer reveals whether we're living, or living well. "The mystery that holds my attention is that some houses have life, are home, are dwellings — and others don't." Resplendent with wit, seasoned with history, *Dwelling in Possibility* is a romp through the homes of our neighbors, as well as an inspection of our own. **Dear Life, Alice Munro (Alfred A. Knopf, 319 pages)**

Alice Munro doesn't need addition-

al kudos here; she won this year's Nobel Prize for Literature for this collection of short stories, stunning in their elegant simplicity. To read Munro is to marvel at how plain words can be strung into a finer, worthier thing, like a thin strand of Mikimoto pearls whose value is only revealed by its clasp. At 81, the Canadian infuses her stories — some fiction, some autobiographical — with wisdom won with age. "Just living long enough wipes out the problems. Puts you in a select club," one of her characters says. As does, say, a Nobel. *Dear Life* was published in hardcover at the end of 2012, but with a paperback release over the summer, and the hoopla over the Nobel Prize, it earns another look for 2013.

—Jennifer Graham

Books
Author events

- **CAROL LEE ANDERSON** talks about her book *The New England Life of Cartoonist Bob Montana: Beyond the Archie Comic Strip* at Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, on Thurs., Jan. 9, at 7 p.m.
- **JASON LANDRY** talks about his new book, *Instant Connections: Essays and Interviews On Photography* on Sat., Jan. 11, at 11 a.m., at Toadstool Bookshop, 12 Depot Square, Peterborough. Call 924-3543, visit toadstool.indiebound.com.
- **TERESA SANTOSKI** signs her book, *Prayers for Oppa* on Sat., Jan. 11, at the Toadstool Bookshop, 586 Nashua St., Milford, 2-4 p.m. Call 673-1734, email books@mtoad.com, visit teresasantoski.com. She also speaks at the "official" release event on Sat., Jan. 25, at 6:30 p.m., at The Cozy Tea Cart, 104 Route 13, Brookline.
- **STEPHEN LONG** talks about his book *More Than a Woodlot* and about how you can help protect New Hampshire's wildlife at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, on Wed., Jan. 15, at 7 p.m.
- **DAN SZCZESNY** talks about *The Adventures of Buffalo and Tough Cookie* on Sat., Jan. 18, at the Derry Public Library, 64 E. Broadway, Derry, at 1 p.m.; at the Amherst Public Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, on Tues., April 8, at 7 p.m.; at the Griffin Free Library, 22 Hooksett Road, Auburn, at 6:30 p.m.
- **DANIEL H. PINK** visits The Music Hall, part of the Writers in the Loft series, on Wed., Jan. 22, at 7 p.m., to talk about *To Sell is Human: The Surprising Truth About Moving Others*. Held at Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth. Tickets \$30.25, includes copy of book, reserved seat, bar beverage, book signing meet-and-greet.
- **LYNN LYONS** talks about

Anxious Kids, Anxious Parents at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, on Mon., Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. Call 224-0562, visit gibsonsbookstore.com.

Lectures and discussions

- **EXOTIC DESTINATIONS LECTURE SERIES** at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, through January. Randy Pierce presents "Reaching Our Peak Potential" on Thurs., Jan. 2, at 7 p.m. (became blind after college, went on to hike NH's 48 4,000-footers and get inducted in Pro Football Hall of Fame); cyclist Denis Beaudry presents his adventures biking around the world on Thurs., Jan. 9, at 7 p.m.; Bryan and Linda Higgs present a program on Machu Picchu on Thurs., Jan. 16, at 7 p.m.; Peter Christoph presents adventures hiking Mt. Kilimanjaro on Thurs., Jan. 23, at 7 p.m.; and Marina Forbes presents "An Insider's Guide to Russia Today" on Thurs., Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. Registration not required. Visit nashualibrary.org/directions.htm, email carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org, call 589-4610. All are free events.
- **PILLS, TABLETS AND CAPSULES, AND THAT WAS JUST MY MORN-ING!** presentation by Concord Regional Visiting Nurse Association rep at Hooksett Public Library, 31 Mount Saint Marys Way, Hooksett, 485-6092, on Tues., Jan. 28, at 10 a.m. Visit hooksettlibrary.org to register.
- **TRIBUTE TO ELLA FITZGERALD** Nanette Perrotte tells story of famed jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, on Sun., Jan. 26, at 2 p.m. Register at tinyurl.com/npllectures. Free.
- **MERYL STREEP** speaks at UMass-Lowell Tsongas Center (300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Lowell) as part of its Chancellor's Speaker Series on Wed., Feb. 5. Details announced at later date; visit uml.edu/

streep for updates. Fundraiser for scholarships.

Book discussions

- **AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY** Wednesday afternoon book club meets on the second Friday of the month at the library, 1-3 p.m. Visitors and/or new members always welcome (call in advance). Amherst newcomers group meets Thursdays evenings at 7:30 p.m. Visit the library for titles.
- **ANIME CLUB** at Nashua Public Library for grades 8-12 meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m.
- **ANIME CLUB** at Manchester City Library for grades 6-12 meets on some Thursdays at 4 p.m. This is an informal club where fans can gather to play cards, watch movies, discuss their favorite characters, and draw.
- **ANIME & MANGA CLUB** is forming at Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson and seeks members to join. Meetings will involve book discussions, anime viewing and workshops. Visit www.rodgerslibrary.org or call 886-6030.
- **THE BOOK CELLAR** in Nashua hosts a book club that meets on the first Wed. of each month, new members always welcome. The Book Cellar is at 34 Northwest Blvd., Nashua, in the Westside Plaza, 881-5570, www.bookcellaronline.com.
- **BOOKS IN THE MILL** spring book group series with Manchester City Library and Manchester Historic Association. Meets Thursdays at Manchester City Library mezzanine (405 Pine St., Manchester), 6:30-8 p.m., manchester.unh.edu/events.
- **CANDIA SMYTH PUBLIC LIBRARY** book discussion group meets for friendly one-hour discussion once a month. The library is at 55 High St., Candia, 483-8245, www.smyth-pl.org.
- **CLASSICS CROWD** at Milford Toadstool Bookshop reads

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FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Far From the Madding Crowd
 By Thomas Hardy
 (Originally published in 1874)

I first read this classic novel in college. As an English major, I took a class on Thomas Hardy, and of the five novels we read, *Far From the Madding Crowd* was the one I fell in love with and wound up writing my senior thesis about.

I recently re-read it for a second time (it took me years to want to read it again after studying it intensively — literally word for word — for months on end), and I was blown away, just like the first time I read it, by the story, the characters and the language. It's the exquisite kind of writing that makes you want to keep a notebook nearby while you read so you can stop and write down some of the most gorgeous sentences you'll probably ever read.

The story is so many things, from a character study of female protagonist Bathsheba Everdene to a debate over what real, lasting love is. Bathsheba, when not busy overseeing the farm she owns (an anomaly for a woman in the late 1800s), tends to matters of the heart, becoming infatuated with Sergeant Francis Troy, fending

daughter book club on the third Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. For girls grades 4-8 and their mothers.

• **HOOKSETT LIBRARY** tween book group for sixth- and seventh-graders meets certain Wednesdays; sign up online.

• **KELLEY LIBRARY** Book Group meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. The nonfiction book group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

• **LACONIA PUBLIC LIBRARY** (695 Main St., Laconia, 524-4775, ext. 15) hosts a "Novel Time at the Library" book discussion series.

• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** evening book discussion group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Hunt Room.

• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** Brown Bag Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in the Hunt Room. Bring lunch. Call 624-6550, ext. 319.

• **MERRIMACK PUBLIC LIBRARY** hosts a book discussion group at 7 p.m. on the third Wed. of each month from Sept. through June. These programs are free and open to the public, no registration required. Extra copies of each book are usually available during the month



off initial advances from Gabriel Oak (whom she hires as her shepherd, then fires, then hires again — just one example of what that roller-coaster relationship is all about) and dealing with the consequences of the love

letter she sent to the wealthy and revered William Boldwood as a joke. The letter said "Marry Me," and getting that letter turns Boldwood into a man obsessed with a woman who doesn't love him but suffers enough guilt from her actions that she can't just walk away.

What I wrote about in my thesis was passion vs. friendship — specifically, which is the better basis for marriage and "happily ever after." It's a theme that's been written about thousands of times since, although I would argue that the character development and prose in *Far From the Madding Crowd* is Far From Modern Chick Lit. It might take a little longer to read — after all, it was written by an Englishman in 1874, back when language was smarter and more sophisticated — but the story will stay with you long after you breeze through a stack of modern romances. — *Meghan Siegler*

before its scheduled discussion date.

• **NASHUA NOVEL READERS** group meets monthly on a Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Music/Art/Media wing of Nashua Public Library. Welcomes new members. Call 589-4610 or email carol.eyman@nashualibrary.org.

• **BOOK DISCUSSION FOR TEENS** at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, on the last Tuesday of the month this fall.

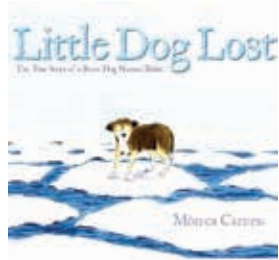
• **PEMBROKE TOWN LIBRARY** book discussion group meets on the second Wed. of each month at 6:30 p.m.

• **RIVERRUN BOOKSTORE CLASSICS BOOK GROUP** meets at RiverRun Bookstore, 142 Fleet St., Portsmouth, 431-2100, riverrunbookstore.

• **RODGERS LIBRARY** in Hudson afternoon book discussion group meets on the third Tues. of the month. Books are available at the library; for more info or to add your name to the group mailing list, call 886-6030, email askus@rogerslibrary.org or visit www.rogerslibrary.org.

• **SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY** discussion group meets at 7 p.m. second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Toadstool Bookshop in Milford.

Book Report



• **And the Ladybug Picture Award goes to:** *Little Dog Lost: The True Story of a Brave Dog Named Baltic* by Monica Carneri. The book, according to a press release, received 5,347 votes of the 22,260 cast by children across the state. The award was estab-

lished to promote early literacy and to honor the best in recent children's books. (Previous winners were *Skippyjon Jones*, *My Lucky Day* and *Memoirs of a Goldfish*.) The 10 nominees were chosen by a committee of children's librarians across New Hampshire. Voting took place in 169 schools, libraries and daycare centers across the state.

• **Want to learn how to predict the weather?** Yankee Magazine and the editors of the Farmers' Almanac visit Barnes & Noble, 1741 S. Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557, on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 2 p.m., to talk about *The Old Farmer's Almanac 2014*. At the event, these visitors will lead a discussion about how to predict the weather.

• **Also on Saturday, Jan. 11:** Jason Landry, director of the MFA in Photography program at the New Hampshire Institute of Art, is part of the winter residency program at the Sharon Arts Center in January, and while he's in the area, he'll talk about his book, *Instant Connections: Essays and Interviews on Photography* on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 11 a.m., at the Toadstool Bookshop, 12 Depot Square, Peterborough. Call 924-3543.

• **New books by New Hampshire author:** New Hampshire resident Tammi Truax recently wrote her debut novella, *Broken Buckets*, which is now available as an eBook, as well as *Lady Wentworth: A Poet's Tale*, which was illustrated by local artist Bob Nilson. (There's a launch party in the works for January.) Truax, she wrote in an email, is a co-founder of The Prickly Pear Poetry Project, a nonprofit healing arts writing workshop, a newspaper columnist and a teacher.

— Kelly Sennott

Welcomes older teens and adults to share the books they've recently read.

• **SOCRATES CAFE** meets on the first Wed. of each month 7-8:30 p.m. at Toadstool Bookshop in Milford, hosted by Rick Branch. New members and curious thinkers are always welcome.

• **TEEN GALLEY GROUP** at Milford Toadstool Bookshop meets monthly. The group will select free books, many in advance of publication, and review them the following month. Meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Call Sarah Brodin at the store and sign up to reserve a spot.

• **WADLEIGH LIBRARY** in Milford hosts book clubs that meet monthly, newcomers always welcome.

• **WARNER AREA BOOK CLUB** meets on certain Sundays at MainStreet BookEnds in Warner.

All are welcome; call Jen at 456-3021 or email Jennkane@tds.net to sign up. 16 E. Main St., Warner, 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com.

Poetry

• **POETRY SOCIETY OF NH** meets on the third Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore for a poetry reading followed by an open mike hosted by Don Kimball. All are welcome; come to listen or to read.

• **HYLA BROOK READING SERIES** is held at the BeanTowne Coffee House & Café at 201 Route 111 in Hampstead (beantownecoffee.com) in winter, and at Robert Frost Farm at 122 Rockingham Road in Derry in the spring and summer (<http://robertfrostfarm.org>). Free and open to the public. An open mike follows the readings. For info, email Robert Crawford at

bobik9@aol.com.

• **HYLA BROOK POETS WORKSHOPS** meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Coffee Factory in Derry. For info, contact Robert Crawford at bobik9@aol.com.

• **SLAM FREE OR DIE** at Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St., Manchester, 858-3286, includes a poetry open-mike session. Doors open and signups start at 7 p.m., open mike begins around 8 p.m., with featured poets and slams following the open mike. \$3 cover charge. Email SlamFreeorDie@gmail.com or call 858-3286.

• **POETS JAM FACTORY** Jam your poetry to live music every Wed. 7:30-10 p.m. at Raxx Billiards, 1211 Elm St., Manchester, ages 18+.

Writers' groups

• **MEMOIR WRITING CLASS** ongoing, taught by Ann Perkins, on Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. in the Ben Franklin Store on Freetown Road in Raymond. Admission is \$10 per class per student. Call 382-5908. Advance registration requested.

• **NHWP BOOK CLUB FOR WRITERS** is a chance for writers to get together four times a year for informal discussions of classic and contemporary literature from a writer's perspective, at various locations around the state. See nhwritersproject.org for meetings in the Upper Valley, Portsmouth and other sites.

• **THE BLANK PAGE** writers' group for all levels meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 in the third-floor conference room at Goffstown Public Library. All are welcome. Call 497-2102 for details.

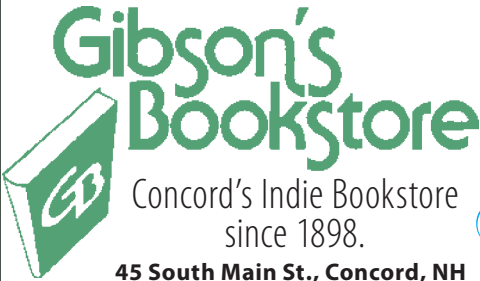
• **CHRISTIAN WRITERS GUILD** has a Merrimack Valley Word Weavers club that meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. above Bonhoeffer's Café & Espresso at 8 Franklin St., Nashua. First-timers are encouraged to attend an orientation class at 6 p.m. For info, contact Clarice James at 578-1860 or wordweaver-snashuanh@comcast.net. See www.christianwritersguild.com/word-weavers.

• **CONCORD WRITERS' GROUP** meets first and third Saturdays at 10 a.m. in the Shakespeare Room of the Concord Public Library. Open to writers of all levels and genres. For more info, contact Chris at clweeden@comcast.net.

• **WRITERS' NIGHT OUT** is hosted by NH Writers Project on the first Monday of each month. Seacoast: Common Man, 96 State St., Portsmouth. Central region: The Barley House, 132 N. Main St., Concord. Upper Valley: Salt Hill Pub, 2 S. Park St., Lebanon. No need to RSVP; just stop by to connect with other writers.

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The pretty-good, totally fine year

A look at the best, worst and OK of 2013

By Amy Diaz
adiaz@hippopress.com

2013 was pretty good at the movie theater — not outstanding, but not terrible.

Looking back, I didn't see a lot of greats among my reviews of this year's movies, not a lot of classic animated movies or dramas for the ages. But there were a relatively few complete failures as well. Most movies fell somewhere in the middle, and many tended toward above average, even if ever so slightly. Blockbusters fared the worst — there was no summer tent pole movie that really delighted, and there were quite a few "meh"s (*Iron Man 3*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Pacific Rim*) and worse (*Kick-Ass 2*, *Smurfs 2*, *The Wolverine*, *RED 2*, *RIPD*). On the bright side, looking back, there were almost no traditional romantic comedies, a genre that needed a rest.

As usual, there are a few of the big award-hopefuls that haven't come to a theater near me yet: *The Wolf of Wall Street*, *Her*, *August: Osage County*, *Inside Llewyn Davis*, *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* and *Labor Day*. But, of movies I've viewed in 2013, here are my picks for the best, worst and weirdest things to come to the cineplex.

Best animated movie: *The Blue Umbrella* A perfect example of the "not

great but not terrible" tone of the year, the animation category had no stand-out for me, but I deeply enjoyed the short *The Blue Umbrella*, which ran before *Monsters University*. This Pixar short was pretty to look at and a sweet story about an umbrella who finds kindness in the city.

Worst animated movie: *Free Bird* The turkeys-as-Native-Americans story isn't offensive, exactly, but it is exceptionally weird and off-putting.

Hey, sequels aren't that bad, horror-edition: *Insidious: Chapter 2* Picking up exactly where the first movie left off, this horror film did a perfect job of recapturing that movie's spookiness and quirky sense of humor.

Hey, sequels aren't that bad, comedy edition: *Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues* This sequel is at its best when it goes full-tilt stupid.

Hey, sequels aren't that bad, blockbuster edition: *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* Visually interesting and given gravitas by the intense performance of Jennifer Lawrence, this second installment was enjoyable in and of itself and left me excited for the next chapter.

Oh, wait, never mind: *The Hobbit: Desolation of Smaug/Thor: The Dark World* These bloated sequels felt like they just checked some box in a multi-movie contract. The titular characters



Much Ado About Nothing

took a back seat (welcome, in the case of *Thor* and its focus on the far more appealing Loki).

Best use of old dudes: *Escape Plan* Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone get back in the action-movie game for this ridiculous but enjoyable prison-break movie.

Worst use of old dude: *The Company You Keep* This very speechy Robert Redford movie makes you appreciate the nearly dialogue-free *All Is Lost*.

Best "Movie! In! Spaaaaaace!": *Gravity* At times melodramatic and overly sentimental (and almost embarrassingly unsubtle with its life/death/rebirth imagery), *Gravity* is nonetheless technically impressive and a compelling story boosted by an excellent performance by Sandra Bullock.

The worst: *After Earth* Will Smith's sci-fi vehicle for son Jaden is joyless and draggy.

Best movie I'm still not sure how I feel about: *Blue Jasmine* Woody Allen's

latest, a riff on *A Streetcar Named Desire*, is annoying and fascinating and you can't take your eyes off the gimmicky but magnetic performance by Cate Blanchett.

Worst movie I don't know how to feel about: *Man of Steel* Honest Trailers said it best: "God forbid a Superman movie be any damn fun for anybody."

Best movie about dudes being dudes: *Don Jon* Joseph Gordon-Levitt wrote, directed and starred in this top-notch comedy about love, unrealistic expectations and maturity.

Worst movie about dudes being dudes: *Runner Runner* Both Ben Affleck and Justin Timberlake deserved better than this lame heist movie.

Best zombie movie: *Warm Bodies* Nicely fills the space in the Venn diagram where horror and rom-com overlap.

Worst zombie movie: *World War Z* Excellent source material about a zombie apocalypse becomes a messy, unsatisfying Brad Pitt movie.

Best movie cutesy about family:

Best 10 (or so) movies of 2013

10. *The Heat* Melissa McCarthy and Sandra Bullock proved that ladies don't need to be running through airports in wedding dresses to be funny.

9. *The World's End* The *Shaun of the Dead* crowd returns for another kind of apocalypse comedy.

8. *Gravity* About the special effects: I found myself thinking "How did they shoot this in space?"

7. *The Spectacular Now* / *Mud* Different takes on the indie coming-of-age story, both of these little movies feature standout performances (Miles Teller and Matthew McConaughey, respectively).

6. *Dallas Buyers Club* / *12 Years a Slave* / *Fruitvale Station* Standout performances and smart writing make these movies about history, both recent (the first and last) and not-as-long-past as we'd like (the middle), must-sees.

5. *Before Midnight* / *Enough Said* / *Don Jon* Each of these movies is a smart come-

dy/drama that will surprise you with its look at modern love involving people older than 25.

4. *Much Ado About Nothing* / *About Time* A romantic comedy about time-travel (the latter) and a romantic comedy for the ages (the former) — both of these movies are joyous. Joss Whedon's black-and-white treatment of Shakespeare's play is particularly effervescent.

3. *Saving Mr. Banks* And speaking of things sweet and bubbly, this cotton candy Disney movie about a moment in Disney history (when Walt and P.L. Travers wrangled over the rights to Mary Poppins) will charm the nostalgia-pants off you.

2. *Nebraska* / *Philomena* Comedy and drama are deftly blended in these road movies that look at difficult family relationships.

1. *American Hustle* David O. Russell's comedy-drama about the ABSCAM scandal features fascinating performances and smart writing.

Worst movies of 2013

10. *Carrie* / *World War Z* These horrifying movies, adapted from interesting source material, never really figure out what they are.

9. *Walking with Dinosaurs 3D* Pretty visuals don't make up for the thin-soup story and writing.

8. *The Hobbit: Desolation of Smaug* Speaking of soup stretched too thin...

7. *After Earth* Maybe you could just put your kids in home movies and spare the rest of us.

6. *Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters* / *Kick-Ass 2* Did we really need either of these sequels?

5. *Battle of the Year* Even by cheesy dance movie standards, this movie is so much

fluffy nothing.

4. *The Fifth Estate* / *Jobs* Just because a person is interesting doesn't guarantee that the movie about him will be.

3. *The Lone Ranger* Armie Hammer seems like he was genetically engineered in a lab specifically to play a brave, handsome and true superhero — just not this one.

2. *The Big Wedding* / *The Family* Robert De Niro (who "stars" in both these stinkers) should probably say no once in a while.

1. *The Counselor* Director Ridley Scott, writer Cormac McCarthy and actors Michael Fassbender and Javier Bardem plus the now-wasted remains of Cameron Diaz's dignity came together to produce the most baffling and terrible movie of the year.

About Time From old-hat British rom-com guy Richard Curtis and starring Rachel McAdams, *About Time*'s biggest surprise is how much it focuses on familial relationships.

Worst movie about family: *The Big Wedding* Starring Susan Sarandon, Robert DeNiro and Diane Keaton, this terrible family comedy was a complete and horrifying failure.

5 movies that have me cautiously optimistic about 2014

- **Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit** (Jan. 17) Call Chris Pine Mr. Re-Boot. Kenneth Branagh directs (and, trailers lead me to believe, is the villain in) this new adaptation of Tom Clancy's iconic character.
- **I, Frankenstein** (Jan. 24) Who had sexy-Frankenstein's-monster in the "what is the next horror thing to get a reboot with a brooding, handsome leading man"? Aaron Eckhart just help you win \$20.
- **The LEGO Movie** (Feb. 7) A roll-call of LEGO characters (Batman and a Teenage

Mutant Ninja Turtle, to name two) make an appearance in this movie about an ordinary LEGO guy (voiced by Chris Pratt) tasked with saving the day.

- **The Monuments Men** (Feb. 7) George Clooney protects art from the Nazis! Matt Damon also stars, protecting puppies maybe?
- **RoboCop** (Feb. 14) Joel Kinnaman is RoboCop in a probably unnecessary but heck-why-not reboot.

American Hustle (R)
A moderately successful con man, his wife, his girlfriend, an FBI agent, the mafia and a New Jersey mayor all get tangled up in a long con in American Hustle, a comic drama from David O. Russell based loosely on the ABSCAM scandal of 1980.

Irving Rosenfeld (Christian Bale, nicely disguised with tummy paunch and elaborate comb over) is a con man. He also owns dry cleaners and a glass business, but he seems to most enjoy his scam-related work — art forgeries, convincing guys to give him \$5,000 in exchange for a loan that will never materialize, relatively small-time stuff like this. His girlfriend, Sydney Prosser (Amy Adams), appreciates his cons and helps him improve them. She adopts an English accent and claims "London banking connections" that give his game an even more believable sheen. But one of their marks turns out to be FBI agent Richie DiMaso (Bradley Cooper). When he nabs them, he offers them a deal — help him catch four other bigger-fish criminals in a financial swindle and he'll give them immunity. Irving comes up with the idea for a sheik — initially played by a buddy from Queens, later by an FBI agent of

Mexican descent (Michael Peña) — looking to invest in the rebuilding of Atlantic City. Though Irving's plan was simply to go after other scammers, the plan quickly draws in Carmine Polito (Jeremy Renner), the mayor of Camden, New Jersey. To get the money to invest in all the revitalized casinos — and the jobs they'll bring with them — he's willing to take a few bribes and hand a few bribes out to others, including the congressmen and senators needed to help fast-track the sheik's American citizenship, which experts tell Irving and Carmine, is the easiest way to ensure they will get all the right gaming licenses. In addition to politicians, the mafia becomes interested in the scheme, including a mobster named Tellegio (Robert De Niro), whose thing, we're told, is leaving the bodies of the people he's killed out in public as a warning to others.

Of course, this ever-expanding con is not a tightly run ship. DiMaso's successes seem to be as much about luck as about skill and he does not have the confidence of his superiors, including Stoddard Thorsen (Louis C.K.). Irving's relationship with Sydney is in a constant state of turmoil — in part due to his marriage to Rosalyn (Jennifer Lawrence), a woman who seems



American Hustle

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to set a lot of unintentional fires (a fact that particularly disturbs Irving because she is the primary caregiver for their young son). Rosalyn’s relationship with Irving is also odd. She knows, probably, about his infidelities but won’t divorce him for some not-entirely-clear reason. Late in the movie, she turns for support to an odd source — is she not all that bright? Or just naive? Or reckless? Or smarter than she lets on and very vindictive? Or some combination of all of those (Lawrence plays her so that any or all of these things — plus the possibility that Rosalyn is just straight-up nuts — could be true).

And all of these characters are, to some degree, conning themselves. How else could a self-professed “good guy” mayor like Carmine let himself be dragged into the shady business by Irving? Or Richie think that his expanding operation — targeting increasingly bigger fish despite a lack of really solid evidence — was so unshakable? And, at any given time, Irving and Sydney aren’t sure who the other is truly trying to con. Irving brings Rosalyn to some events and Sydney flirts with Richie. Even though Sydney tells Irving she plans to get close to the FBI agent should they need a backup plan, neither Irving nor Richie is ever really sure whom she’s interested in.

American Hustle reminded me a lot of Steven Soderbergh’s 2009 movie *The Informant!*, starring Matt Damon. In this movie, as in that movie, we’re never really certain about the reliability of our narrating central characters. And each character here is an ornate little music box of a creation, with machinery unto him or herself that makes them unpredictable but in ways that are believable with the person we get to know. The actors are clearly enjoying these characters, which all involve not just twisty inner lives but odd wardrobe and appearance quirks that must make it feel like they are vanishing into the person. Lawrence’s at times maniacal-seeming Rosalyn, with her nails and her big blond up-do, or Cooper’s perpetually nervous-seeming Richie with his permed hair — I could have watched any one of these characters just be, just move around a room, lighting a cigarette or making a phone call.

American Hustle takes these excellently crafted characters, puts them in a fun sto-

ry and gives them truly top-notch dialogue. Consider it David O. Russell’s Christmas gift to you; all he asks for (and will likely receive) in return is all the nominations during the upcoming award season. **A**

Rated R for pervasive language, some sexual content and brief violence. Directed by David O. Russell and written by Eric Singer and David O. Russell, American Hustle is two hours and 18 minutes long and distributed by Columbia Pictures.

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13) **Ron Burgundy takes on cable news and helps to destroy TV journalism in *Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues*, a sequel that truly does stay classy.**

Ron Burgundy (Will Ferrell) and his wife Veronica Corningstone (Christina Applegate) have moved on from their desk in San Diego to the big time — a local station in New York City. Should veteran news anchor Mack Harken (Harrison Ford — finally, someone figured out exactly how to use his gruffness) ever retire, they are poised to take his slot. And then the offer comes — but only for Veronica. Ron, Mack says, is the worst anchor he’s ever seen. It’s me or the job, Ron ultimatums Veronica. And thus, six months later we see a drunken Ron serving as emcee at a dolphin show at Sea World while Veronica and their son are back in New York City.

Having lost his son, his wife, his job and his reason to perfect his hair every day, Ron is ready to pack it in. But luckily, just then he receives a visit from Freddie Shapp (Dylan Baker), a news producer for a new 24-hours cable news station. The concept is crazy, Ron thinks, but it’s his chance to get back into the news game, so he grabs it and reassembles the old news team: Brick Tamaland (Steve Carell), Champ Kind (David Koechner) and Brian Fantana (Paul Rudd). Once they get to New York City, however, they find that the station job isn’t as cush as they’d hoped. They will be doing the overnight news shift — 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. A confrontation with a rival newsman at the station, Jack Lime (James Marsden), leads Ron to make a bet that he can get better ratings than prime time.

How, exactly?

At first, the guys consider just airing a



Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues

porno. When that idea is nixed, Ron comes up with a revolutionary plan: Instead of giving people the boring news they need to have, how about giving them the news they want? Give them stories about animals — lots of stories about animals. Give them stories about things that could kill them, give them stories about celebrities doing embarrassing things and, most importantly, give them stories that reaffirm their belief that America is the greatest country in the history of the world. And thus Ron’s new slogan: don’t just have a great night, have an American night.

At first, Ron’s new boss, the ambitious, ratings-getting Linda Jackson (Meagan Good), is furious and fires Ron and his team. But then she sees the ratings from their forgotten time slot and suddenly Ron and his team aren’t just heroes to the fledgling network, they are revolutionaries who change the face of TV news journalism. Specifically, they get rid of the “journalism” aspect entirely and hold the nation captivated with, for example, a car chase about which they can speculate wildly.

True story: Immediately after seeing this movie, I walked next door to get a coffee. The barista asked what name to write on the cup. I had to pause and think about it. For a second, still bedazzled by the extravagant and gleeful stupidity of *Anchorman 2*, I actually forgot my own name.

Anchorman 2 is mid-level goofy fun. Every scene feels a bit like a contest between all the actors in that scene to try to get each

other to crack up. Clearly everyone — from Ferrell himself to those with smaller parts, like Kristin Wiig — likes the outsized-silly character they are playing and relishes in taking the personality to its most idiotic extreme. (I can’t help it; I’m a sucker for watching actors, particularly comic actors, enjoy themselves in a movie. Even when the seams show, their enjoyment is infectious.) I found myself at times thinking that some jokes and some scenes wore themselves a little thin, and other times I found myself laughing embarrassingly loud for a theater as empty as the one I saw the movie in.

And then came the movie’s final, oh, 30 minutes or so.

In terms of details, I’ll say only that there’s another news team battle, chock full of the same kind of goofy exaggerated stereotypes and delicious cameos as were in the first movie’s battle. But this one is perhaps even better — and it’s by far the best, the most joyfully stupid part of this movie. It’s here that the movie cuts the moorings with sense-making and just goes for full-tilt lunacy.

It was awesome.

I don’t know if I could have taken a whole movie of that — saving it for the climax was certainly a wise choice. But that chunk of the movie and other sections like that (a love scene between Ron and Linda that included clips of, for example, Jackie Robinson or the Kirk-Uhura kiss) are what made it for me. The commentary on TV news today isn’t too shabby either — I’d say the movie makes a

REVIEWlets Bite-sized reviews and previews of recent and future films

*indicates a movie worth seeing. For reviews of graded films, go to hippopress.com.

Opening Wed., Dec. 25:
***The Wolf of Wall Street* (R)**
Leonard DiCaprio, Matthew McConaughey.
Martin Scorsese’s latest features the based-on-a-true-story of stockbroker Jordan Belfort.

***The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (PG)**
Ben Stiller, Kristin Wiig.
Stiller directs and stars in this tale of a man with an adventuresome life in his head.

***47 Ronin* (PG-13)**
Keanu Reeves, Hiroyuki Sanada.
Reeves says “whoa” to some samurai action.

***Justin Bieber’s Believe* (PG)**
Biebs, screaming fans.
A concert film for your teenage relatives to watch while you see *Wolf of Wall Street*.

Movies in limited release:
***Her* (R)** Spike Jonze’s movie starring Joaquin Phoenix is scheduled to open in Boston on Dec. 25; ***Inside Llewyn Davis* (R)** is now in Boston.

In theaters:
***The Book Thief* (PG-13)**
Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson.
This adaptation of the book by Markus Zusak tells the story of a young girl who moves in with a new foster family in late 1930s Germany. Lovely looking and well-cast, the movie itself plods along. **B-**

****Homefront* (R)**
Jason Statham, James Franco
A former D.E.A. agent retires to a small town to make friends — with Jason Statham violence! **B-**

****The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (PG-13)**
Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson.
Plus Liam Hemsworth, Eliza-

beth Banks, Woody Harrelson and more in this adaptation of Part 2 of Suzanne Collins’ saga. **B**

***Last Vegas* (PG-13)**
Morgan Freeman, Robert De Niro.
And Michael Douglas — it’s another Vegas, baby, Vegas bachelor party, this time for a group of oldsters. **C+**



Saving Mr. Banks

nice balance of using the ridiculousness of cable news for comic effect without trying to get preachy about it.

The first *Anchorman* was the stupidest thing I've liked the most. This movie doesn't top that mark but it is a pretty solid runner-up. **B+**

Rated PG-13 for crude and sexual content, drug use, language and comic violence. Directed by Adam McKay and written by Will Ferrell & Adam McKay, Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues is an hour and 59 minutes long and distributed by Paramount Pictures.

Saving Mr. Banks (PG)

Walt Disney woos a very reluctant P.L. Travers to buy the rights to her Mary Poppins stories in *Saving Mr. Banks*, a sweet nostalgia-filled movie about the creation of the 1964 Disney movie *Mary Poppins*.

P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson), or Pamela, as she allows almost no one to call her, is very low on cash. Her agent, Diarmuid Russell (Ronan Vibert), tells her that with royalties down and no new book, financially, she needs to do what she has been reluctant to do for two decades — sell the movie rights to Mary Poppins to Walt Disney (Tom Hanks). But Mrs. Travers, as she insists on being called, is fearful of what Disney will do with her beloved Mary Poppins and the Banks family. She thinks — with good reason — that he will turn her story into something syrupy and silly and sprinkled with animation.

Disney, as he tells her when she visits California, has promised his two daughters that he will adapt the book. He's already got a team working on the movie. When she arrives in Los Angeles, Travers meets Don DaGradoi (Bradley Whitford), the screenplay author, and Robert (B.J. Novak) and Richard Sherman (Jason Schwartzman). She is horrified by the sunny changes they've made — the Banks' house is too grand, she doesn't understand why the mother has to be a suffragette, she doesn't like the songs.

And all this Poppins talk brings up in Trav-

ers the origins of the stories, which are the origins of her story. We see her as a child growing up in Australia. After her father (Colin Farrell) loses a job in a city, the family moves out to a small town labeled "end of the line" on the train schedule. He is full of stories and dreams to enchant the young author, who he calls Ginty (Annie Rose Buckley), and her sisters. But his fun also comes with a drinking problem and an inability to hold a job that has Ginty's mother, Margaret (Ruth Wilson), on the edge of her emotional rope. When her mother's sister, Ellie (Rachel Griffiths), shows up at the family house with her umbrella and her giant carpet bag, she seems to bring an almost magical order.

Saving Mr. Banks was possibly scientifically imagineered in some Disney lab to be just the right amount of sentimental, nostalgic, sweet and funny. While watching it, I felt at times like I wasn't so much having an organic experience as being led through an "organic experience," much like one would be led through, say, a ride celebrating the cultures of the world. That said, it is a very good ride, top notch, with no detail overlooked, like the kind Walt himself would design, at least the way the movie presents Disney's intense interest in crafting each of his projects. (In fact, that's another brilliant thing that this Disney movie about Disney movies does — which is to remind you what high-quality, perfect-pitch creations Disney products can be.) It's impossible — or at least I find it impossible — not to be charmed by America's sweetheart, Mr. Tom Hanks, and our favorite British lady, Emma Thompson (who has created her own excellent tales of children in need of care with the Nanny McPhee movies). I enjoyed the little Easter eggs of classic Disney (a throw-away line by Whitford's character when Disney is headed into the studio — "man is in the forest" — was particularly cute) and the focus on the creation of little moments and details from the Julie Andrews classic as much as I enjoyed the history of Disney stuff and the general fun that Thompson was clearly having being such a persnickety character. And while even

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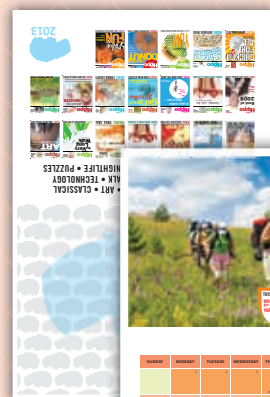
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the happiest scenes of Travers' childhood are full of tragedy foreshadowing, I held it together until, for whatever reason, the scene where DiGradio and the Shermans introduced Travers to "Let's Go Fly a Kite" hit me like a sucker punch to the feelings. I honestly can't say if the scene really had the subtle blend of joy, emotional rawness and character development that made it feel so joyfully bittersweet or if just hearing the song pinged some deep, lizard-brain childhood thing for me. I can't say, but I'll bet some Disney scientist could tell you exactly what they were doing and how they did it.

Which is to say that if *Saving Mr. Banks* is emotionally manipulative — probably — I'm OK with that. I've felt for a while now that there was some shared DNA, some next generation of fairy-godmothers connection between Julie Andrews and Emma Thompson, and this movie just heightened that quality. Somehow, the many many spoonfuls of sugar (including a sympathetic limo driver character played by Paul Giamatti that could have been unbearable) in this movie remain sweet but light, instead of weighing the production down with syrup. I found myself charmed and left lost in a pleasant haze of nostalgia for *Mary Poppins* (which, wouldn't you know it, just had its 50th anniversary DVD rerelease a few weeks ago). **A-**

Rated PG for thematic elements including some unsettling images. Directed by John Lee Hancock and written by Kelly Marcel and Sue Smith, Saving Mr. Banks is two hours and five minutes long and distributed by (but of course) Walt Disney Studios.

Walking with Dinosaurs 3D (PG)

Learn the scientific names of dinosaurs while watching an extremely pat story about survival in the prehistoric world in *Walking With Dinosaurs*, a flat, unfun, mostly animated feature.

The story of a group of dinosaurs living in Alaska is bookended by live-action people: A sullen teenager (Charlie Rowe) is forced to ride along on a dig with his paleontologist uncle, Karl Urban. A talking bird named Alex (voice of John Leguizamo) then weaves the story of an old tooth the uncle found, thus enchanting the teen with what becomes voice-over narration of the main tale.

Once upon a time — or, as one might say, in *The Land Before Time* — a young Pachyrhinosaurus named Patchi (voice of Justin Long) is the runt of the litter but full of spirit. As he gets bigger, he remains friends with prehistoric bird Alex, the Alexomix, and is picked on by his stronger, bigger brother, Scowler (Skyler Stone). Though small and a little on the meek side, Patchi is clearly the brains to Scowler's brawn. During a seasonal migration, the two brothers are separated from their parents, who, spoiler alert I guess, go the way of so many dinosaur family members before them (see *Ice*

Age and all its sequels) and leave Patchi and Scowler to fend for themselves as they cross the prehistoric Alaskan landscape looking for warmer feeding grounds. Luckily, they find fellow travelers in another pachyrhinosaurus herd, which includes Juniper (Tiya Sircar), a girl dinosaur Patchi fell in crush with after a chance meeting. They endure more difficulty traveling between the winter and summer territories, most of which include predators both omnivore and carnivore. As time wears on, the pushy Scowler decides he deserves to lead the pack even if Patchi is the better strategic thinker — for example, Patchi believes spring is not a good time to march a herd of giant animals across a frozen lake but Scowler disagrees.

Back a million years ago in the late 1990s when IMAX was a thing mostly found in museums and maybe in that one theater per metropolitan area, "IMAX movies" often meant films made especially for IMAX, often with some sort of focus on learning. There was a lot of nature stuff, some history (I remember seeing a particularly terrible movie about the Alamo) — though exquisite-looking, these films were nothing all that impressive story-wise. The plots of such movies, when there were plots, were extremely secondary to showing off what the visuals could accomplish. This movie — which I saw in 3-D, though not in IMAX — reminded me of those films, especially in the live-human opening and closing shots, which were stilted and teachy in a way most often associated with 1960s educational films about personal hygiene. The main story was a thin retread of previous dinosaur and prehistoric-themed movies with characters whose personalities would be the default settings in some animated-movie-script-generating software.

The visuals, the looks of the dinosaurs themselves, are the most interesting and the oddest things about the movies. On the one hand, the movie seems very dedicated to making the dinosaurs look "realistic" — with individual features and eyes and mouths that look like animal rather than cartoon mouths. On the other hand, the dinosaur characters are goofy in the very standard poop-joke kids' cartoon way. The marriage of these too elements never quite fits — particularly since, for the most part, only the characters mentioned in my synopsis have "voices," while the rest just grunt and roar. There is no internal (to the movie) logic to how these dinosaurs talk. In the end, the movie falls somewhere between full-on animated movie and more naturey science film and is satisfying as neither. **D**

Rated PG for creature action and peril, and mild rude humor. Directed by Barry Cook and Neil Nightingale and written by John Collee, Walking with Dinosaurs 3D is an hour and 27 minutes long and distributed by 20th Century Fox. 🐾

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MOVIES OUTSIDE THE CINEPLEX

RED RIVER THEATRES

11 S. Main St., Concord, redrivertheatres.org, 224-4600
• **Some Velvet Morning** (NR, 2013) on Thurs., Dec. 26, at 2:10, 5:40 & 7:15 p.m.
• **Nebraska** (R, 2013) on Thurs., Dec. 26, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 27, through Sun., Dec. 29, at 1, 3:30 & 6 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 30, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 31, at 2 & 5:30 p.m.; Wed., Jan. 1, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Thurs., Jan. 2, at 2 p.m.
• **Philomena** (PG-13, 2013) Thurs., Dec. 26, at 2:05, 5:25 & 7:45 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 27, through Sun., Dec. 29, at 1:20, 3:40, 6:10 & 8:20 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 30, through Thurs., Jan. 2, at 2:05, 5:25 & 7:45 p.m.
• **The Great Beauty** (NR, 2013) Fri., Dec. 27, at 2, 5 & 8 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 28, at 2, 5 & 8 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 29, at 2 & 5 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 30, through Thurs., Jan. 2, at 2, 5 & 8 p.m.
• **The Band Wagon** (1953) on Tues., Dec. 31, at 8 p.m.
• **Lawrence of Arabia** (PG, 1962) Thurs., Jan. 2, at 5:30 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL

40 Main St. in Wilton, 654-3456, wiltontownhalltheatre.com
• **Last Vegas** (PG-13, 2013) Thurs., Dec. 26, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Saving Mr. Banks** (PG-13, 2013) Thurs., Dec. 26, at 7:30 p.m.

CAPITOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS

44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
• **Swan Lake** National Theatre Live on Sun., Jan. 5, at 2 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us
• **After Earth** (PG-13, 2013) on Wed., Jan. 8, at 1 p.m.
• **Little Shop of Horrors** (PG-13, 1986) on Wed., Jan. 15, at 1 p.m.
• **The Help** (PG-13, 2011) on Wed., Jan. 22, at 1 p.m.
• **Now You See Me** (PG-13, 2013) on Wed., Jan. 29, at 1 p.m.

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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• **Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters** (PG, 2013) on Fri., Dec. 27, at 3 p.m.
• **Super Buddies** (G, 2013) on Fri., Jan. 3, at 3 p.m.
• **Despicable Me 2** (PG, 2013) on Fri., Jan. 10, at 3 p.m.
• **Lee Daniels' The Butler** (PG-13, 2013) on Fri., Jan. 17, at 3 p.m.
• **Mary Poppins** (G, 1964) on Fri., Jan. 24, at 3 p.m.
• **Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2** (PG, 2013) on Fri., Jan. 31, at 3 p.m.

BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, 472-3023, bedfordonline.com, free movie at 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month, presented through Parks & Recreation
• **Harry and Tonto** (R, 1974) on Sun., Jan. 19, at 2 p.m.

CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

45 Green St., Concord, 230-3682, onconcord.com/library
• **Kids Afternoon Movie** on Fri., Dec. 27, at 2:30 p.m.

HOOKESETT PUBLIC LIBRARY

31 Mount Saint Mary's Way, Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksetlibrary.org, Free films and popcorn.
• **Monday Matinee** on Mon., Dec. 30, at 2 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 6, at 2 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 20, at 2 p.m.; & Mon., Jan. 27, at 2 p.m.

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org. Call 589-4646 for a movie schedule. Seating is limited. Food and drink are not permitted. Cinema Cabaret screens adult films on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and the family film series screens on Saturdays at 2 p.m. The two series run from October to May.
• **Mary Poppins** (1964) on Sat., Dec. 28, at 2 p.m.
• **Bedknobs and Broomsticks** (G, 1971) on Sat., Jan. 4, at 2 p.m.
• **Despicable Me 2** (PG, 2013) on Sat., Jan. 11, at 2 p.m.
• **Enchanted** (PG, 2007) on Sat.,

Jan. 18, at 2 p.m.
• **Hercules** (G, 1997) on Sat., Jan. 25, at 2 p.m.
• **Sex, Lies and Videotapes** (R, 1989) on Sat., Jan. 25, at 3:45 p.m. (Discussion Mon., Jan. 27, at 7 p.m., part of discussion group for 20-somethings.)

RODGERS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

194 Derry Road, Route 102, Hudson, rogerslibrary.org. 886-6030
• **80's Movie Marathon** on Thurs., Jan. 9, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
• **Teen Movie Night** on Mon., Jan. 27, at 6 p.m.

GOFFSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

2 High St., 497-2102, goffs-townlibrary.com
• **Despicable Me 2** (PG, 2013) on Fri., Dec. 27, at 11 a.m.

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherst.lib.nh.us
• **Children's Movie Night** on Thurs., Jan. 2, at 2 p.m.

PETERBOROUGH PLAYERS THEATER

55 Hadley Road, Peterborough, 924-9344, showings of The MET: Live in HD, National Theatre Live
• **Company** on Sun., Jan. 12, at 1 p.m.
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THE MUSIC HALL

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org. Some films are screened at Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St.
• **The Spectacular Now** (R, 2013) on Thurs., Dec. 26, at 7 p.m.
• **All is Lost** (PG-13, 2013) on Fri., Dec. 27, at 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 29, at 3 & 7 p.m.; Wed., Jan. 1, at 7 p.m.; & Thurs., Jan. 1, at 7 p.m.
• **Blue Jasmine** (PG-13, 2013) on Fri., Jan. 3, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 4, at 7 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 5, at 7 p.m.; Tues., Jan. 7, at 7 p.m.; Wed., Jan. 8, at 7 p.m.; & Thurs., Jan. 9, at 7 p.m.
• **Woody Allen's Sleepover** (1973) on Fri., Jan. 3, at 7 p.m., & Sun., Jan. 19, at 7 p.m.

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• **Sittin' in:** Every Thursday night, the **Ferdinando Argenti Trio** holds forth at a Mill District ristorante, playing traditional jazz with a little help from their friends. The event is an open session, allowing the group to morph into a quartet or five-piece as the fates allow. The veteran Argenti leads on piano and vocals, drawing from be-bop, swing and lyrical masters like Chet Baker. Attend Jazz Open Session on Thursday, Dec. 26, at 7 p.m. at Fratello's, 155 Dow St., Manchester. See fratellos.com for more.

• **Southbound:** After building a solid following in Concord, **Holmes** brings its funky sound to Nashua for a first-time appearance at a downtown Irish pub, recruited by Lamppost Promotions. The Worcester-based quartet is led by burly singer-guitarist Steve Snuffer, and has collected more than a few hometown awards for its prowess at playing funk, blues and rock. See Holmes on Friday, Dec. 27, at 9 p.m. at The Peddler's Daughter, 48 Main St., Nashua. See holmesband.com for more.

• **Burn unity:** Capping an eventful first year, melodic hard rockers **Carolina Burn** host and headline a hometown holiday bash. Among the highlights — coveted slots on a pair of Casino Ballroom shows, Puddle of Mudd and Sevendust. Also appearing are Thurkills Vision, Hopes End and Best of Hippo winner A Simple Complex. Attend Carolina Burn Holiday Bash on Saturday, Dec. 28, at 8 p.m. at Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St., Manchester. Tickets are \$10 — see facebook.com/CarolinaBurn.

• **Troubadour:** There's a new original track by **Brooks Hubbard** streaming on SoundCloud. "Wish I Was a Kid" (bit.ly/1hue0da) deserves to be heard. It's an upbeat country rocker in the spirit of John Mayer and Stephen Kellogg, two singers he regularly covers. Hubbard appears at an afternoon event billed as an alternative to Sunday pro sports, called Cosmo Funday. See Brooks Hubbard on Sunday, Dec. 29, at 4 p.m. at Copper Door, 15 Leavy Drive, Bedford. See facebook.com/pages/Brooks-Hubbard-Music.

• **Local hero:** The year of **Josh Logan** culminates with two shows in downtown Manchester. The scrappy veteran made the final dozen on NBC reality show *The Voice*, which also helped to boost his local profile significantly. Opening for Logan and his full band is fellow hometown boy Chad LaMarsh. See Josh Logan and Chad LaMarsh on Sunday, Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 30, at 7 p.m. at Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets \$23.50 at palacetheatre.com.

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NITE

Say hello to 2014

Party into the new year

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

From the Seacoast to the White Mountains, there's a New Year's party for every taste this year. If you're in the mood to cut loose, there are plenty of options.

• **Alan's** (133 N. Main St., Boscawen 753-6631) Natalie Turgeon Band play rocking country music, but seats are limited at \$15 with a NYE Gala Buffet costing \$21.99.

• **Alpine Grove** (19 S. Depot Road, Hollis 882-9051) Margaritaville Bash \$40 includes hot dinner buffet, DJ Chris Brunelle, party favors, Champagne toast and snack buffet at midnight.

• **American Legion** (24 Maple St, Wilton 654-9996) Catfish Howl play pure blues for the faithful to ring out 2013 at \$20/ticket.

• **Amsterdam** (8 Temple St., Nashua 204-5534) Rock the Decades Party with Pat Gendron followed by DJs playing '80s through the New Age. There will be a midnight Champagne toast and party favors. It's a no-cover party upstairs, DJs doing hour-long decades of music request sets, with a spinoff at midnight.

• **Arena** (53 High St., Nashua 881-9060) Comedy Comedy and Dinner Package Tickets are \$50 couple or \$30 single; includes admission to the club. New Year's Eve club only tickets are \$10, with the laughs provided by Comedy With A Purpose. All packages include Champagne toast and noisemakers.

• **Armory Ballroom** (700 Elm St., Manchester 625-1000) Dueling Pianos provide laughs, playing requests in its patented stump-the-band style. Tickets start at \$30, with dinner/show/dancing/room combinations available.

• **Bernie's** (522 Amherst St., Nashua 978-884-9536) Countdown to Midnight DJs include Black and White Collaboration (Morlock Music), Dragon and Guess Who (Paperstarship Entertainment), DJ Balls (Hopping Goat Productions, NYCR) and Fresh n' Up at this 18+ party with a \$10 cover.

• **Blue Mermaid Island Grill** (The hill at Hanover and High streets, Portsmouth 427-2583) Celebration Band performs rock and soul from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; there's a Champagne toast at midnight and giveaways, all for a \$5 cover.

• **Blue Ocean Music Hall** (4 Ocean-front North, Salisbury 462-5888) Entrain show ticket only \$25; show and buffet combo \$55. Expansive dance floor, option-

al savory buffet and the vibrant sounds of New England's epic party band, Entrain.

• **Boondocks Tavern** (487 S. Stark Highway, Weare 529-7747) Party with DJ Barry. No cover, Champagne Toast at midnight.

• **Boston Biliard Club** (55 Northeastern Blvd., Nashua 943-5630) Masquerade Party w/DJ Anthem & 3 Olives Vodka Ice Luge; \$10 cover includes Champagne, masquerade mask and admission; pool table reservations also available at \$125 (includes cover for four people, pool table 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., sampler platter, bottle of champagne and party favors).

• **Breezeway Pub** (14 Pearl St., Manchester 621-9111) Drag show, DJ, noisemakers, no cover.

• **British Beer Co.** (1071 S. Willow St., Manchester 232-0677) Extravaganza with DJ Katie 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., No cover, Champagne and party favors at midnight.

• **British Beer Co.** (103 Hanover St. at Portwalk Place, Portsmouth 501-0515) Extravaganza with DJ Rick 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., no cover, Champagne and party favors at midnight.

• **Brookline Events Center** (32 Proctor Hill Road, Brookline 673-4474) Mark Scalia, Steve Guilmette \$40/advance (\$5/door) includes dinner, show, DJ dancing and toast at midnight.

• **Brookstone Events Center** (14 Route 111, Derry 328-9255) Party w/ Get Down Tonight Entertainment. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a station-style dinner, dancing with DJ Jeremy Guilbeault from Get Down Tonight Entertainment and a Champagne toast at midnight for \$39 per person.

• **Cannonball Pub** (Cannon Mountain Resort, Franconia 823-8800) Crunchy Western Boys & Van Burens. Formal attire is encouraged but not required, pre-buy \$30/person, \$60/couple, or \$35/door. Tickets include food, which will be served



Guinness record holding rapper Twista will perform at Milly's Tavern on New Year's Eve. Courtesy photo.

throughout the evening, with cash bar.

• **Cara Irish Pub** (11 Fourth St., Dover 343-4390) Truffle Chameleon Club (above Cara) presents Electric Truffle. Tickets \$10, show is 21+ with doors at 7 p.m. and a full bar and menu available.

• **Cartelli's** (446 Central Ave., Dover 750-4002) Party DJ; open full menu and extended specials; Champagne toast at midnight; no cover.

• **Chop Shop Pub** (920 Lafayette Road, Seabrook 760-7704) Doubleshot Boston and 43 North playing on two stages; \$25 includes entry, full dinner, breakfast buffet, midnight Champagne toast, hats and noisemakers. \$50 Hotel Room, \$100 per couple includes room and tickets with free shuttle to and from the hotel.

• **Circle 9 Ranch** (39 Windymere Drive, Epsom 736-9656) There's square dance action for \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door.

• **City Sports Grille** (216 Maple St., Manchester 625-9656) Between The Lines plays music surrounded by bowling, pool, video games and all other manner of distractions at this Manchester family center.

• **Clark's Tavern** (40 Nashua St., Milford 769-3119) Brett Wilson performs rock and jam favorites.



Eric Grant will rock the first-ever NYE party at Club Manchvegas. Courtesy photo.

• **Club Manchvegas** (50 Old Granite St., Manchester 222-1677) Eric Grant Band plays rock and country at this downtown nightclub's first ever New Year's celebration. Enjoy a \$34.95 roast beef & turkey buffet, ride the mechanical bull, explore your inner dude (the ranch kind) or go upscale with a swank cocktail. 2014 is welcomed with a Champagne toast and plenty of party favors.

• **Coach Stop Tavern** (176 Mammoth Road, Londonderry 437-2022) with Steve Tolley

• **Common Man** (88 Range Road, Windham) Karen Grenier performs upstairs in the Tavern, singing from 8 to 11 p.m. Come welcome in the new year a little early.

• **Concord Holiday Inn** (172 N. Main St., Concord 224-9534) Comedy with Paul Nardizzi, Ryan Gartley and DJ dancing to close out the year, all presented by Headliners Comedy; tickets start at \$30/person.

• **Derryfield Country Club** (625 Mammoth Road, Manchester 623-2880) Last Kid Picked at Derryfield play a \$25/person party that's always popular. Tickets include a Champagne toast at midnight and party favors.

• **Dolphin Striker** (15 Bow St., Portsmouth 431-5222) Michael Troy performs following a \$50 prix fixe three-course meal with a Champagne toast at midnight.

• **Dover Brick House** (2 Orchard St., Dover 749-3838) String Theory performs rock and roll for \$10/ticket.

• **Drynk** (20 Old Granite St., Manchester 641-2583) DJ Jason Spivak spins in the main room with JBox on the deck, with \$15 tickets until Dec. 29, then \$20 and \$35 day of event. VIP tables available for up to \$1,000 plus tip include bottle service and bubbly, along with Red Bull and party swag, not to mention line-jumping privileges.

• **Fody's Tavern** (9 Clinton St., Nashua 577-9015) Do something different this year with a Murder Mystery Dinner (\$65 each), which includes a three-course meal

followed by DJ Mark Allen playing music to help ring in 2014.

• **Fratello's** (155 Dow St., Manchester 624-2022) Paul Luff performs from 7:30 to 11 p.m. for those en route to another shindig or looking to turn in early.

• **Fury's Publick House** (1 Washington St., Dover 617-3633) All Good: Feel Good Collective brings the groove to the Seacoast.

• **Gaucha's Churrascaria** (62 Lowell St., Manchester 669-9460) DJ Moises provides the music and the restaurant provides a protein-rich \$40 buffet (\$20 party only after 9 p.m.).

• **Governors Inn** (78 Wakefield St., Rochester 332-0107) Ira Proctor tops a bill of Headliners Comedy comics; tickets start at \$30.

• **Grappone Center** (7 Constitution Ave, Concord 225-8916) Club Soda Band at the 2nd Annual Concord Women's Club NYE Party. Dinner, dancing and Champagne toasts every hour celebrating New Years around the world! Doors at 7 p.m., party at 8. \$85 tickets benefit the Woman's Club of Concord's Historic home, the Chamberlin House Restoration Fund.

• **Haluwa Lounge** (Nashua Mall, Nashua 883-6662) Slakas w/Chris Lester on lead guitar ring in the new year at the Gate City band's favorite haunt.

• **Headliners Comedy Club** (700 Elm St., Manchester 625-1000) Comedy with Paul Nardizzi, Rob Steen, Matt D & Jenny Zigrino in the performance room at the Radisson. A top comic (Nardizzi), the godfather of the scene (Steen) and two up and coming stars (Matt D. and Jenny Z.). Packages start at \$30.

• **Hilton Garden Inn** (100 High St., Portsmouth 431-1499) Curt and Jenn perform duo music.

• **Homestead** (641 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack 429-2022) Gary Lopez performs an early show from 7 to 10:30 p.m.

• **Jade Dragon** (1087 Elm St., Manches-

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ter 669-5523) Bring Back Brimmer Party features Manchester’s best laser show presented by Jonny Friday, Asian food and cocktails and dancing to Top 40 music all night at a no cover event that includes a champagne toast at midnight.

- **Karma Hookah & Cigar Bar** (Elm Street, Manchester) Add a bit of smoke to your New Year’s festivities along with something more exotic at a party featuring international DJ Mazen and belly dancing shows throughout the night.

- **Kelley’s Row** (421 Central Ave., Dover 750-7081) Living the Dream performs rock and roll hits.

- **La Belle Winery** (345 Route 101, Amherst 672-9898) B3 with International Buffet \$75/person for a lavish world tour of food, dancing to the music of B3, and a sparkling wine toast and sparklers at midnight, watching the Times Square ball drop on a big screen. Menu includes a cheese & vegetable display, plus hot, appetizer-sized portions of cuisine from around the world, featuring displays from France, Mexico, Italy, America and China. Before 2013 expires, the dessert buffet will be filled with desserts of all kinds and coffee.

- **Lakes Region Casino** (1265 Laconia Road, Belmont 267-7778) Party at Lakes Region Casino.

- **Mad Bob’s Saloon** (342 Lincoln St., Manchester 669-3049) Among The Living final show w/ special guest Tester \$5 includes buffet.

- **Mad Hatter Bar & Grill** (99 Route 13, Brookline 672-1800) Fatha Groove.

- **Margate Resort** (76 Lake St., Laconia 524-5210) \$249-\$279 packages are inclusive with hotel, buffet dinner and complimentary Champagne. There’s a ball drop at midnight after DJ and dancing that starts at 9 p.m. (only 6 p.m. dinner tables are left for those seeking reservations). There’s a breakfast buffet in the morning. Along with DJ music, Undercover Operatives will play hits from the ’50s through ’80s.

- **Martha’s Exchange** (185 Main St., Nashua 883-8781) DJ Chris Beatz joined by a special guest at 10 p.m. with prizes, giveaways and Champagne toast at midnight.

- **Milly’s Tavern** (500 Commercial St., Manchester 625-4444) Hip Hop New Year’s Ball with Guinness Book of World Records rapper Twista and several other acts. The show starts at 7 p.m. and includes local performers Quiet Akillez, who also promoted the 21+ event. Advance tickets \$50, with VIP passes \$100 (two for \$150)

- **Murphy’s Taproom** (494 Elm St., Manchester 644-3535) Cover band Mugsy rings in the new year with hits from the 1970s to today.

- **New England’s Tap House Grille** (1292 Hooksett Road, Hooksett 782-

5137) Groove Cats perform at this bar and restaurant’s first ever New Year’s Eve party.

- **Oar House** (50 Ceres St., Portsmouth 436-4025) Boo Boo Groove lays down the jazz rock at this Seacoast party.

- **One Mile West Tavern** (6 Brook Road, Sunapee 863-7500) The Moores are a tradition at this Sunapee bar and restaurant. The favorite family rockers are complemented by many dinner specials, and the music starts at 9 p.m. with midnight Champagne, door prizes and more.

- **Pats Peak Ski Area** (686 Flanders Road, Henniker 428-3245) Family celebration with dancing to The McMurphys, comedy show featuring Jay Grove, fireworks and lots of food. Party/skiing \$50-\$90, party only \$35-\$70, skiing only \$38 and tubing only \$20

- **Patrick’s** (18 Weirs Road, Gilford 293-0841) No Hassle No Frills Party — Business as usual with no reservations, no set seatings and no inflated prices. Party favors throughout the night with a Champagne toast at midnight and a DJ taking requests.

- **Peddler’s Daughter** (48 Main St., Nashua 821-7535) Party favors, Champagne at midnight, three-course dinner. Call venue for music details.

- **Penuche’s Ale House** (6 Pleasant St., Concord 228-9833) Local favorites Boogie on Alice rock in the New Year as a Concord pub with a neighborhood feel.

- **Pitman’s Freight Room** (94 New Salem St., Laconia, 527-0043) Enjoy a Blast From The Past bash. The Wharf Rats are a sort of retro-jam-folk-rock band, whose material is rooted in the 1960s and ’70s. The Rats will be playing three sets, one acoustic and two electric, as many bands did “back in the day,” with a five-course buffet from 7 to 9 p.m. and show at 8 p.m., \$20/advance, \$25/door and the event is BYOB.

- **Pit Road Lounge** (388 Loudon Road, Concord 226-0533) Day Janiero play at a \$20/ticket party that includes a toast at midnight; the kitchen will be open.

- **Portsmouth Gas Light** (64 Market St., Portsmouth 431-9122) The “sexiest party of the year” includes passed hors d’oeuvres, Champagne toast, late night buffet, masks, party favors and free nightclub admission through March for \$38 general admission. \$75 VIP Access includes all general admission offerings plus upgraded Venetian masks, food service, Champagne toast and reserved seating.

- **Press Room** (77 Daniel St., Portsmouth 431-5186) w/ Elsa Cross performs with support from local heroes Rockspring. Critics compare Cross’s voice to Patsy Cline and June Carter, but fans say the Maine chanteuse sounds more like a female Johnny Cash. Tickets \$8.

- **Raxx Lounge** (1195 Elm St., Manchester 203-1458) Dance party w/DJ Mike includes free party favors, all request music, all night long at this no cover event.

- **Red Door** (107 State St., Portsmouth 373-6827) Red Door resident performers Green Lion Crew welcome 2014 in this intimate room, with a chill vibe and sub-lime cocktails (\$10/door).

- **Ri Ra Irish Pub** (22 Market Sq., Portsmouth 319-1680) DJ Drew will be spinning the wheels and there’s a Champagne toast at midnight at this Celtic-themed bar, with a cover charge of \$5.

- **Rudi’s** (20 High St., Portsmouth 430-7834) Rob Gerry and hirsute keyboard player Mike Effenberger perform an eclectic mix of music.

- **Shaskeen** (909 Elm St., Manchester 625-0246) Lock The Doors Bash is reprised with limited \$60 tickets covering a food buffet, midnight Champagne toast, giveaways, DJ music and open bar. The club will be closed to anyone without tickets (21+ only).

- **Social 24** (24 Depot St., Manchester 782-8489) DJ Cootz and Josh Porter with a complimentary buffet, live NYE countdown from Times Square, party swag and Korbel toast at midnight, all for \$20, with VIP options including bottle service also available; call the club for more information.

- **Sonny’s Tavern** (328 Central Ave, Dover 343-4332) There’s ‘80s dance music, a Champagne toast at midnight, and food specials early on at this no-cover party.

- **Stone Church** (5 Granite St., Newmarket 292-3546) Daemon Chili w/Long Gone and Jake Davis & The Whiskey Stones perform at this favorite original

live music haunt.

- **Strange Brew Tavern** (88 Market St., Manchester 666-4292) Mr. Nick & the Dirty Tricks and David Rousseau share the stage at this Manchester beer lover’s haven.

- **Tandy’s Top Shelf** (1 Eagle Square, Concord 856-7614) Black and White Party, dress pants, button-down shirt, tie and dress coat for the guys, evening frock or cocktail dress for the ladies, with DJ Ice-man Streetz and a \$10 cover.

- **Thirsty Moose Tap House** (21 Congress St., Portsmouth 427-8645) New York Funk Exchange brings its patented mix of rock and soul, complete with full horn section, to the basement of this Portsmouth pub, a bit of beer-snob heaven mixed with serious get-down music.

- **Village Trestle** (25 Main St., Goffstown 497-8230) Common Knowledge perform the annual bash at this musician’s hub, home of a much beloved Sunday blues jam session.

- **Wally’s Pub** (144 Ashworth Ave., Hampton 926-6954) Decades of Dance Bash, with the music changing every hour, call club for more details.

- **Whippersnappers** (44 Nashua Road No. 13, Londonderry 434-2660) Lisa Guyer’s Gypsy Caravan performs at a \$25 bash that includes Champagne toast at midnight and party favors. Guyer’s band includes Gard from Mama Kicks and Tim Theriault (Sully Erna).

- **Wicked Twisted Bar & Grill** (38 E. Hollis St., Nashua 577-1718) High energy cover rock from Max Voltage.

- **The Yard** (1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester 623-3545) Headliners Comedy and Main Event DJ with a buffet dinner for \$65 that includes Champagne toast. 🍷

2013 standouts

Looking back at the year's nightlife

By Michael Witthaus

mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Five favorite shows:

In a year full of great performances, some were exceptional:

Mavara, Milly’s Tavern, May 19. One of several bands performing at an all-day Boston Strong benefit, the Iranian prog rockers owned the room with a set consisting mostly of originals, their passion for music palpable.

Mica’s Groove Train, Granite State Music Festival, June 22. The gods smiled on Concord with perfect weather and several great performances. Yamica Peterson, soulful, playful and powerful, stood out from the crowd.

Def Leppard, Meadowbrook, July 15. There’s a reason this stuff is called classic

rock – it’s impossible to hear the cowbell/drum rhythm that opens “Rock of Ages” and fail to stand, raise a fist and sing along.

Pat & The Hats, Chen Yang Li, Sept. 7. An emerging force on the local scene, led by triple threat Patrick Gochez, the power trio poured everything it gleaned from musical history into a groovy melting pot.

deSol w/ Entrain, Palace Theatre, Nov. 22. This year’s Concert for the Cause brought a one-two rhythmic punch, and both sides of the stage stayed packed with dancers; deSol’s kinetic energy in particular proved infectious.

Five favorite stories

Some big names talked to the Hippo in 2013, including:

Bill Maher pulled no punches, prompting an angry email from one disgruntled Dennis Miller fan.

Bruce Hornsby talked about the many collaborations he's done, and his wish to play with Mark Knopfler.

Alice Cooper identified the secret of his early success: "All the right people didn't like us."

Dave Mustaine brought Gigantour to New Hampshire and a new, no-nonsense album from his band Megadeth.

Kenny Rogers said the love he got from kids at Bonnaroo and Glastonbury was "flattering and a compliment."

Five favorite local venues

Original music has more than a few homes, like these:

Shaskeen — Music, comedy, poetry and diverse acts ranging from rapper Coolio to comedian John Tole.

True Brew — Its space more than doubled, this cozy Concord coffee house is a welcome spot for original talent.

Boondocks — The Weare juke joint has it all: barbecue, blues, rock, acoustic singers and a cool listening deck.

Red Door — The vibe's chill, cocktails sublime, and the music cutting edge in this intimate Portsmouth room.

Tupelo Music Hall — The gold standard for listening rooms in this or any other area, a treasured jewel.

Five favorite local CDs

More than a few goodies, culled down to this list:

Proof of Love, Gracie Curran & The High Falutin' Band — The Strange Brew regular delivers a soulful gem.

Season of Salvation, Mavara — Soaring, inspiring progressive rock from a band we need to hear more from.

Marrow, Will Kindler — Quirky, inventive and utterly original, capped with a lovely Frank Sinatra cover.

Time To Fly, Brooks Young Band — The bluesy guitarist changes gears with a rocked up romp.

From Detroit to the Delta, James Montgomery Band — From a veteran harp player with an all-star cast, this record took years and is well worth the wait.

Five performers who should play Manchester

Excerpts from a letter to Rock n' Roll Santa:

Frank Turner — The British punk turned folk rocker is the most inspiring live performer working today.

The Rascals: Once Upon A Dream — The Palace Theatre and this rock & soul revival are a perfect match.

Patty Griffin — With so many visits from performers who've covered her, it's time for the real thing.

Kurt Baker & His Party Animals — He's rocked Maine for years; is a short road trip too much to ask?

Five things to look forward to in 2014

New records from Pat & the Hats and Tristan Omand: Producer Brian Coombes is working with two über talented youngsters at Rocking Horse Studio; expect great things.

Granite State Music Festival: The regional music event of the season turns 3 this June, but only with your support at granitestatemusicfest.org.

Keith Urban at Meadowbrook: The first show announced at Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion at Meadowbrook is a performer who happens to be country but rocks like a guitar god.

Bill Cosby at Capitol Center for the Arts: A true comedy legend; in a world where the term is tossed around a lot, Cos has earned it.

Local original music keeps growing: More bands are asserting a right to play their own music, an encouraging sign that needs to be encouraged. Go to a show!

Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band — Did Bruce ever play New Hampshire? Was it something we said?

Five favorite events

Rocking Horse End of Summer Party — A dream showcase from the state's top recording studio.

Boston Strong Benefit at Milly's — Area musicians can always be counted on for a benefit; this affair went above and beyond.

The Who at Verizon Wireless — The first ever appearance from one of rock's holy trinity; can the Stones and Sir Paul be far behind?

Band Perry with Cassandra Pope at Meadowbrook — The Lakes Region shed added 50 percent capacity and sold out the second show of the year.

Laugh Free or Die at Murphy's, April 3 — Proof that comedy is booming came when Nick David moved from the Shaskeen and both rooms were packed on the same night.



Def Leppard at Meadowbrook, July 2013. Photo by Michael Witthaus.

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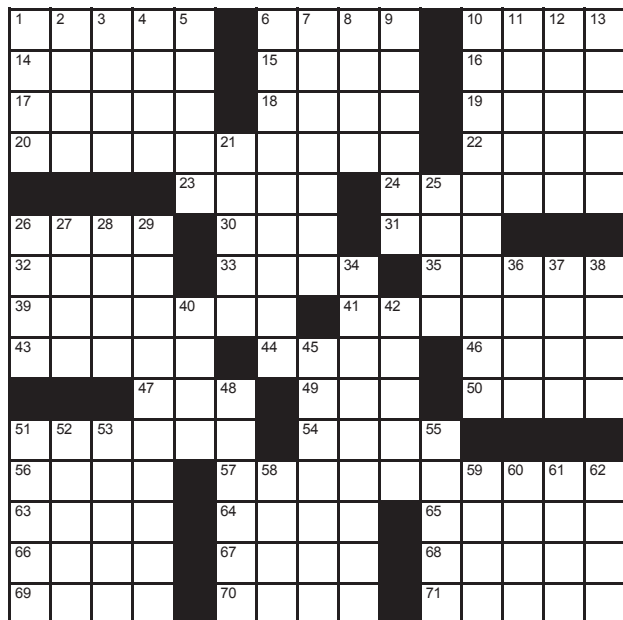
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1. Airtight David Gray song?
6. Type of British party?
10. Alice In Chains ‘__ Bones’
14. Petra ‘____ This World’ (3,2)
15. ‘Close My Eyes Forever’ Ford
16. Foo Fighters song for devil’s home?
17. Demonic UK thrash band?
18. Sheryl Crow ‘_____ Makes You
19. ‘02 Unwritten Law album
20. Michael Bolton ‘Time, Love & __’
22. What songs did down charts
23. “Seekin’ my fame and fortune, lookin’ for a pot of gold” CCR
24. “So open up, I’m climbin’ in, and take _____” (2,4)
26. Former ax-man for band (abbr)



30. What reunion rocker must shed (abbr)
31. Damian Marley sidekick
32. Doors "Try now we can only ____"
33. Metallica 'Hero Of The Day' album
35. '12 Christina Aguilera album
39. Steely Dan album 'Countdown To ____'
41. NJ Latin metal band (3,4)
43. Underwater English band?
44. Nicks penned '79 Fleetwood Mac hit
46. Electronic 'Swamp Thing' band
47. Deceptive David Cook song?
49. Beatle Sutcliffe (abbr)
50. Long show categories
51. Sanyo subsidiary
54. Doors "And our love become a funeral ____"
56. Eurhythmics 'Would ____ To You?'

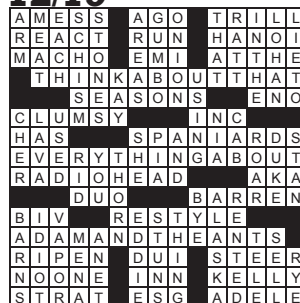
- (1,3)
57. Practicing
63. LMFAO 'I Am ____ Whore' (3,1)
64. Jamiroquai 'King For ____' (1,3)
65. 'The Weight' off Easy ____ soundtrack
66. Like eager fan
67. Keith Richards' Fender model (abbr)
68. Ace Frehley song about an Earth layer?
69. Cameraman's eye
70. Adam And The ____
71. Hand down music legacy

1. Live Dead album 'Without ____' (1,3)
2. 'Street' The Doors sang of
3. Modest Mouse "The ocean breathes salty, won't you carry ____?" (2,2)
4. Axis: ____ As Love
5. Carole King '____ The Earth Move' (1,4)
6. ____ Of Alabama (5,4)
7. Tom Cochrane '____ Highway' (4,2,1)
8. Blues pianist Spann
9. ____ The Cradle (4,2)
10. Donny Hathaway '____ For You, Live!' (5,5)
11. No Doubt '____ Good'
12. Living Colour '____ Is Dead'

13. Sly And The Family Stone song about his uppercrust woman?
21. What Adele does into 'The Deep'?
25. Passion Pit 'Let Your Love Grow ____',
26. Former Bon Jovi bassist ____ John Such
27. Kylie Minogue '____-Motion'
28. What The Beatles were 'Back In'
29. Maiden & Priest fans, slang
34. Early version of 'Whole Lotta Rosie' (5,4)
36. Get sick of a song
37. '97 Regurgitator album
38. The Who 'Odds and ____'
40. Simple Plan 'Your Love Is ____' (1,3)
42. Christopher Cross 'Think Of ____'
45. Pavement's runner-up name?
48. San Fran band Erase ____
51. Europe "It's the ____ countdown!"
52. "This one goes out to the one ____" (1,4)
53. Join a band on stage (3,2)
55. Career wrongdoing
58. Madina Lake 'Attics To ____'
59. '04 Helmet album '____ Matters'
60. 'Rebel Yell' Billy
61. '99 Luftballons' singer
62. Elton John '____ Seal'

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Written By: Todd Santos

12/19



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2 oz. Vodka
 1 oz. St. Elder Elderflower Liqueur
 Squeeze Lime Wedge
 Shake with ice and strain
 into a martini glass.
 Garnish with a lime wedge.

St. Elder G & T

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 3 oz. Tonic Water
 Mix with ice in a tall glass.
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MUSIC THIS WEEK

Amherst La Belle Winery 345 Route 101 672-9898	Bristol Back Room at Mill 2 Central St. 744-0405	Steve-N-James Tavern 187 Rockingham Rd 434-0600	Exeter Shooter's Pub 10 Columbus Ave. 772-3856	Henniker Country Spirit 262 Maple Street 428-7007 Daniel's Main St. 428-7621 Henniker Junction 24 Weare Rd. 428-8511 Pat's Peak Sled Pub 24 Flander's Road 888-728-7732	Broken Spoke Saloon 1072 Watson Rd 866-754-2526 Cactus Jack's 1182 Union Ave. 528-7800 Crazy Gringo 306 Lakeside Ave. 366-4411 Fratello's Lakes 799 Union Ave. 528-2022 Jazz Bar 290 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100 Margate Resort 76 Lake St. 524-5210 Naswa Resort 1086 Weirs Blvd. 366-4341 Paradise Beach Club 322 Lakeside Ave. 366-2665 Patio Garden Lakeside Ave. Pitman's Freight Room 94 New Salem St. 527-0043 Tower Hill Tavern 264 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100 Weirs Beach Lobster Pound 72 Endicott St. 366-2255 Weirs Beach Smoke-house Rt 3 Laconia 366-2400	City Sports Grille 216 Maple St. 625-9656 CK's Grill 791 Second St 669-2868 Club 313 93 S. Maple St. 628-6813 Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road 623-2880 Don Quijote 333 Valley St. 792-1110 Drynk 20 Old Granite St. 641-2583 Element Lounge 1055 Elm St. 627-2922 Farm Bar & Grille 1181 Elm St. 641-3276 Fratello's 155 Dow Street 624-2022 Gaucht's Churrascaria 62 Lowell St. 669-9460 Hanover St. Chophouse 149 Hanover Street 644-2467 Ignite Bar & Grille 100 Hanover St. 494-6225 J. Dubs Coffee 1000 Elm St. 622-7944 Jade Dragon MHT 1087 Elm St. 669-5523 Jam Factory 1211 Elm St. 203-1458 Jokers 1279 South Willow Street 935-9947 Karma Hookah & Cigar Bar 1077 Elm St. 647-6653 Luigi's Pizza Bar & Grille 712 Valley 622-1021 Mad Bob's Saloon 342 Lincoln St. 669-3049 McGarvey's 1097 Elm St. 627-2721 Midnight Rodeo (Yard) 1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545 Milly's Tavern 500 Commercial St. 625-4444 Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St. 644-3535 N'awlins Grille 860 Elm St. 606-2488 Olympic Lounge 506 Valley St. 644-5559 Penuche's on Hanover 96 Hanover St. 626-9830	Piccola's 815 Elm St. 296-4070 Raxx Lounge 1195 Elm St. 203-1458 Salona Bar & Grill 128 Maple St. 624-4020 Shaskeen 909 Elm St. 625-0246 Shorty's 1050 Bicentennial Dr. 625-1730 Sizzle Bistro 1 Highlander Way 232-3344 Social 24 24 Depot St. 782-8489 Starbucks 1111 South Willow St 641-4839 Strange Brew Tavern 88 Market St. 666-4292 Theos 102 Elm St. 669-4678 TJ's Bar & Grill 23 Central St. 660-2241 Unwine'd 865 Second St. 625-9463 Wild Rover 21 Kosciuszko St. 669-7722 XO on Elm 827 Elm St. 206-5721
Bedford Bedford Village Inn 2 Olde Bedford Way 472-2001 Copper Door 15 Leavy Drive 488-2677 Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse 206 Route 101 488-5706 Starbucks 220 S. River Rd 263-0061	Brookline Cozy Tea Cart 104 Route 13 249-9111 Mad Hatter Bar & Grill 99 Route 13 672-1800	Dover 11th Frame Bar 887 B Central Ave. 742-9632 Asia 42 Third Street 742-9816 Barley Pub 328 Central Ave. 742-4226 Cara Irish Pub 11 Fourth St. 343-4390 Cartelli's & Bar 446 Central Ave. 750-4002 Dover Brick House 2 Orchard St. 749-3838 Fury's Publick House 1 Washington St 617-3633 Jimmy's Sports Bar 15 Mechanic St. 740-4477 Kelley's Row 421 Central Ave. 750-7081 Loft at Strafford Farms 58 Route 108 743-3045 RJ's 83 Washington St. Roger's Pizza 869 Central Ave. 742-9870 Sonny's Tavern 328 Central Ave 343-4332 Top of the Chop One Orchard St. 740-0006	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230 Wa Toy 611 Mast Rd 668-1088	Hollis Alpine Grove 19 S. Depot Road 882-9051	Londonderry Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern 176 Mammoth Rd 437-2022 Stumble Inn Bar & Grill 20 Rockingham Road 432-3210 Twins Smoke Shop 128 Rockingham Rd Whippersnappers 44 Nashua Rd # 13 434-2660	J. Dubs Coffee 1000 Elm St. 622-7944 Jade Dragon MHT 1087 Elm St. 669-5523 Jam Factory 1211 Elm St. 203-1458 Jokers 1279 South Willow Street 935-9947 Karma Hookah & Cigar Bar 1077 Elm St. 647-6653 Luigi's Pizza Bar & Grille 712 Valley 622-1021 Mad Bob's Saloon 342 Lincoln St. 669-3049 McGarvey's 1097 Elm St. 627-2721 Midnight Rodeo (Yard) 1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545 Milly's Tavern 500 Commercial St. 625-4444 Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St. 644-3535 N'awlins Grille 860 Elm St. 606-2488 Olympic Lounge 506 Valley St. 644-5559 Penuche's on Hanover 96 Hanover St. 626-9830	Meredith Camp 300 Daniel Webster Highway 279-3003 Giuseppe's Ristorante 312 Daniel Webster Hwy 279-3313
Belmont El Jimador 171 DW Highway 527-8122 Lakes Region Casino 1265 Laconia Rd. 267-7778 Lodge at Belmont Route 106 877-872-2501 Top of the Town 88 Ladd Hill Rd 528-3244	Concord Barley House 132 N. Main, 228-6363 Granite Restaurant & Bar 96 Pleasant St. 227-9000 Hermanos 11 Hills Ave. 224-5669 Makris 354 Sheep Davis Rd 225-7665 Penuche's Ale House 6 Pleasant St. 228-9833 Pit Road Lounge 388 Loudon Rd 226-0533 Red Blazer 72 Manchester St. 224-4101 Tandy's Top Shelf 1 Eagle Square 856-7614 True Brew Barista 3 Bicentennial Square 225-2776	Hamptstead Pasta Loft Brickhouse 220 East Main St 378-0092 Village Square 472 State St. 329-6879	Hampton Boardwalk Inn 139 Ocean Blvd. 929-7400 Breakers By the Sea 409 Ocean Blvd 926-7702 La Bec Rouge 73 Ocean Blvd 926-5050 Old Salt 409 Lafayette Rd 926-8322 Ron's Landing 379 Ocean Blvd 929-2122 Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954 Whales Tales 169 Ocean Blvd 967-4771	Hudson AJ's Sports Bar & Grill 11 Tracy Lane 718-1102 JD Chaser's 2B Burnham Rd 886-0792 Nan King Restaurant & Lounge 222 Central St. 882-1911 SoHo 49 Lowell Rd. 889-6889	Kingston Bucco's Tavern 143 Main St. 642-4999 Kingston 1686 House Tavern 127 Main St. 642-3637	Mad Bob's Saloon 342 Lincoln St. 669-3049 McGarvey's 1097 Elm St. 627-2721 Midnight Rodeo (Yard) 1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545 Milly's Tavern 500 Commercial St. 625-4444 Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St. 644-3535 N'awlins Grille 860 Elm St. 606-2488 Olympic Lounge 506 Valley St. 644-5559 Penuche's on Hanover 96 Hanover St. 626-9830	Merrimack Giorgio's Ristorante & Martini Bar 707 Milford Road 883-7333 Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Highway 429-2022 Jade Dragon 515 DW Highway 424-2280 Pacific Fusion 356 Daniel Webster Highway 424-6320
Boscawen Alan's 133 N. Main St. 753-6631	Deerfield Lazy Lion Café 4 North Road 463-7374	Epping Holy Grail Food & Spirits 64 Main St. 679-9559	Hanover Jesse's Tavern 224 Lebanon St 643-4111 Salt Hill Pub Hanover 7 Lebanon Street 676-7855	Laconia Anthony's Pier 263 Lakeside Ave. 366-5855 Baja Beach Club @ China Bistro 89 Lake St. 524-0008	Loudon Hungry Buffalo 58 New Hampshire 129 798-3737	Manchester Breezeway Pub 14 Pearl St. 621-9111 British Beer Company 1071 S. Willow St. 232-0677	Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Highway 429-2022 Jade Dragon 515 DW Highway 424-2280 Pacific Fusion 356 Daniel Webster Highway 424-6320
Bow Chen Yang Li 520 South St. 228-8508	Derry Coffee Factory 55 Crystal Ave 432-6006 Halligan Tavern 32 W. Broadway 965-3490 Sabatino's North 1 E. Broadway 432-7999	Epsom Circle 9 Ranch 39 Windymere Dr. 736-9656					Milford Chapanga's 168 Elm St. 249-5214 Clark's Tavern 40 Nashua St. 769-3119

Thursday, Dec. 26 Amherst La Belle Winery: Dan Webster	Dover Sonny's: Wheel of Awesome	Club 313: DJ Pez & DJ Carlos Karma: Midas Teleporation DJ/Drums Manchvegas: DJ T-Lekk Milly's: Lakes Region Big Band N'awlins Grille: Live Jazz Raxx: DJ Mike Shorty's: Steve Tolley Strange Brew: Mike Fioretti	Nashua Amsterdam: DJ Sammy Smooove Boston Billiard Club: DJ & Beach Night Fody's: Live Music Shorty's: Ray Zerkle	Red Door: Local Heroes Rudi's: Sal Hughes & Guest Thirsty Moose: Crooked Coast	Friday, Dec. 27 Bedford Shorty's: Rob & Jody Starbucks: Starbucks Acoustic	Concord Makris: Nobody's Fault Red Blazer: Bill Noland Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz (105.5 JYY) True Brew: Matt Porier and Friends
Auburn Auburn Pitts: Rockin' Ronnie Adams	Epping Holy Grail: Karen Grenier		Newmarket Stone Church: Live Irish Music w/ Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki			
Boscawen Alan's: John Pratt in Lounge	Laudonia Paradise Beach Club: DJ Gin-E	Merrimack Homestead: Gary Lopez	Portsmouth British Beer Co.: Drew Yount Dolphin Striker: Pete Peterson & Derek T.	Weare Boondocks: Jeff Mrozek	Belmont Lakes Region Casino: Axis	Derry Halligan: Jerry McCarthy
Concord Barley House: Traditional Irish Sessions Hermanos: Mike Stockbridge	Londonderry Coach Stop: Jeff Mrozek Whippersnappers: Napoleon In Rags				Belmont Lakes Region Casino: Axis	Dover Asia: DJ Shadow Walker Brick House: Tear Down The Sun Kelley's Row: Pat Foley
	Manchester Breezeway: DJ Pet - Impulse	Milford Clark's: Fileep			Boscawen Alan's: Chris Cavanaugh	

Giorgio's Ristorante & Meze Bar
524 Nashua St. 673-3939
J's Tavern
63 Union Sq. 249-9222
Madison's Irish Pub
586 Nashua St. 672-2060
Pasta Loft
241 Union Sq. 672-2270
Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills
50 Emerson Road 673-7123

Nashua
603 Lounge
14 W. Hollis St. 821-5260
Amsterdam
8 Temple St. 204-5534
Arena Sportsbar & Nightclub
53 High St. 881-9060
Bernie's
522 Amherst St. 978-884-9536
Boston Billiard Club
55 Northeastern Blvd. 943-5630
Country Tavern
452 Amherst St. 889-5871
Cucina Toscana
427 Amherst St 821-7356
Fat Daddy's Café
650 Amherst St. 821-5136
Fody's Tavern
9 Clinton St. 577-9015
Haluwa Lounge
Nashua Mall 883-6662
Killarney's Irish Pub
9 Northeastern Blvd. 888-1551
Martha's Exchange
185 Main St. 883-8781
Michael Timothy's
212 Main St. 595-9334
Nashua Garden
121 Main St. 886-7363
O'Shea's Tavern & Cigar Bar
449 Amherst St. 943-7089
Peddler's Daughter
48 Main St. 821-7535
Pine Street Eatery
136 Pine St. 886-3501
Riverwalk Coffee
35 Railroad Sq. 578-0200
Slade's Food & Spirits
4 W. Hollis St. 886-1344
Stella Blu
70 E. Pearl St. 578-5557

Shorty's
48 Gusabel Ave 882-4070
Unums
47 E. Pearl St. 821-6500
Villa Banca
194 Main St. 598-0500
Wicked Twisted
38 East Hollis St. 577-1718

New Boston
Molly's Tavern
35 Mont Vernon Rd
487-2011

New London
Flying Goose
40 Andover Road 526-6899

Newington
Momma D's Casa di Pasta
347 Shattuck Way 431-6511

Newmarket
KJ's Sports Bar
N. Main St. 659-2329
Lamprey River Tavern
110 Main St. 659-3696
Stone Church
5 Granite St. 292-3546

Newport
Salt Hill Pub Newport
58 Main St. 863-7774

Newton
Hen House
85 South Main St 382-1705

North Hampton
Locals 215 Lafayette Rd.
379-2729

Northwood
Tough Tymes 221 Rochester Rd 942-5555

Pelham
Shooters
116 Bridge St. 635-3577

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub
3 School St. 924-6365

Plaistow
Corner Pocket
181 Plaistow Rd. 382-3130

Dugout Grille
93 Main St. 819-4947
Racks Bar & Grill
20 Plaistow Rd. 974-2406
Sad Café
148 Plaistow Rd. 382-8893

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid Island Grill
The hill at Hanover and High streets 427-2583
British Beer Company
103 Hanover St. 501-0515
Daniel Street Tavern
111 Daniel St. 430-1011
Dolphin Striker
15 Bow St. 431-5222

Fat Belly's
2 Bow St. 610-4227
Hilton Garden Inn
100 High St. 431-1499
Jitto's Supersteak
3131 Lafayette Rd 436-9755

MoJo's BBQ Grill
95 Brewery Lane 436-6656
Oar House
50 Ceres St. 436-4025
Paddy's American Grill
27 International Dr. 430-9450

Portsmouth Gas Light
64 Market St. 431-9122
Portsmouth Pearl
45 Pearl St. 431-0148
Press Room
77 Daniel St. 431-5186

Red Door
107 State St. 373-6827
Red Hook Brewery
35 Corporate Dr. 430-8600

Ri Ra Irish Pub
22 Market Sq. 319-1680
Rudi's
20 High St. 430-7834
Rusty Hammer
49 Pleasant St. 436-9289
Thirsty Moose Tap House
21 Congress St. 427-8645
Wet Bar at Pages
172 Hanover St. 436-0004

Raymond
Famous Legends at Strikers East
4 Essex Dr. 895-4474

Salem
Black Water Grill
43 Pelham Road 328-9013

Coffee Coffee
326 S. Broadway 912-5381
Jocelyn's Lounge
355 S. Broadway 870-0045
JT's Bar and Grill
326 S. Broadway 893-4055
Sayde's Restaurant
136 Cluff Crossing 890-1032
Varsity Club
67 Main St. 898-4344

Seabrook
Chop Shop Pub
920 Lafayette Rd 760-7704
Honey Pot Bar & Lounge
920 Lafayette Road 760-2013
Master McGrath's
Route 107 474-6540
Prime Time Sports Grill
620 Lafayette Rd 760-7230

Sunapee
One Mile West Tavern
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Sunapee Coffee House
Rte. 11 & Lower Main St. 229-1859

Tilton
Black Swan Inn
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Warner
The Local
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Photo: Steven Lilley



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REDUCED TO TWO

His band on hiatus since last year, Stephen Kellogg hits Tupelo Music Hall on Friday, Dec. 27 at 7 p.m. The duo show is dubbed (Not Quite) Alone for the Holidays, Part Deux. In a curious way, Kellogg's music represents a meeting point between two styles that influenced him growing up, his father's record collection devoted to '70s singer-songwriters like Jim Croce and Cat Stevens, and his sister's rock and roll discs, dominated by hair metal acts like Bon Jovi and Mötley Crüe. 2 Young Road, Londonderry. Tickets \$25 at tupelohall.com.



Ring in 2014 with your friends at



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- No Limited Menu
- No Reservation Required

Great New Years Eve Specials!

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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK



JUNK TRIFECTA

Legendary New Hampshire drumming group Recycled Percussion perform three times in two days at the Palace Theatre: Friday, Jan. 3, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 4, at 3 and 7 p.m. An entirely new show sets the standard for high-energy, mind-blowing drumming, after a stellar appearance on *America's Got Talent* and their Las Vegas MGM Grand residency. Packed with the stunning physical performances and incredible visuals, the show is an all-ages experience. 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets for all shows \$29 at palacetheatre.org.

Epping

Holy Grail: George Belli

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Acoustic Jam w/ John Erlman

Hampton

Wally's Pub: The Old Bastards

Hooksett

Asian Breeze: DJ Alban
Tap House Grille: Demitri Papanicolau

Kingston

Bucco's: Live Music

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Charlie Christos
Whippersnappers: Barn Fire

Manchester

Breezeway Pub: DJ McKay
NRG Dance
British Beer Company: Brandon Lepere Band
City Sports Grille: Nicole Murphy
Club 313: DJ Bob
Derryfield: Natalie Turgeon
Drynk: Brett Wilson
Element: DJ Smallz
Fratello's Manchester: Steve Sibulkin
Manchvegas: Rory Scott Band

Milly's: Live Music

Murphy's Taproom: Connip-tion Fits

N'awlins Grille: Live Jazz

Penuche's: Live Music

Raxx: DJ Mike

Shaskeen: Mega beats, Frenzy of Tongs, Labor Pains

Strange Brew: Gravel Project

Merrimack

Homestead: Chris Donahue

Milford

Clark's: Gary Lopez

Nashua

Amsterdam: Encircle
Arena: Project Mess / DJ Danjah
Country Tavern: Jeff Mrozek
Fody's: Small Town Stranded
Peddler's Daughter: Holmes
Stella Blu: Rampage Trio
New Boston
Molly's: John C Tavern/Chad Verbeck

Newmarket

Stone Church: Fat City

Peterborough

Harlow's: Elsa Cross

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: Live Local Music

British Beer Company: Cover Story

Dolphin Striker: Los Sugar Kings

Gas Light: Don Severance, DJ Koko P, Jimmy D

Hilton Garden: Cormac McCarthy

Oar House: Paul Luff

Red Door: Pat Fontes

Ri Ra: Red Sky Mary

Rudi's: Duke & John Hunter

Rusty Hammer: Live Music

Thirsty Moose: Jamsterdam

Salem

Black Water Grill: Rick Bretton & Crew

Saturday, Dec. 28

Bedford

Shorty's: Jimmy & Marcelle

Belmont

Lakes Region Casino: J Street Extension

Boscawen

Alan's: Joe McDonald

Brookline

Mad Hatter: Turtle Crossing

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Thursday, Dec. 26

Derry

Halligan Tavern:
Francis Birch, Paul Landwehr
Dover
Cara's Irish Pub:
Dave Rattigan

Nashua

Fody's Tavern: Alana Susko

Friday, Dec. 27

Portsmouth

Portsmouth Gaslight:
Rob Steen

Saturday, Dec. 28

Dover

Cara's Irish Pub:
Michael Winslow
(Police Squad)

Portsmouth

Music Hall: Justin McKinney's Last Laugh 2013

Tuesday, Dec. 31

Brookline

Brookline Events
Center: Mark Scalia,
Steve Guilmette

Concord

Holiday Inn: Paul Nardizzi, Ryan Gartley

Manchester

Armory Ballroom:
Dueling Pianos
Headliners: Paul Nardizzi, Rob Steen,
Matt D & Jenny Zigrino

Rochester:

Governors Inn: Ira Proctor

Nashua

Arena: Alana Susko
Presents

Thursday, Jan. 2

Dover

Cara's Irish Pub: Jay Grove

Friday, Jan. 10

Concord

Capitol Center: John Pinette

Friday, Jan. 24

Concord

Capitol Center:
Upright Citizens Brigade

Friday, Feb. 7

Concord

Capitol Center: Bill Cosby

Friday, Feb. 14

Portsmouth

Music Hall: Mike McDonald's Comedy Xtravaganza

TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

8:30 PM to CLOSE

\$1.99

PER PERSON on:

THURSDAYS

9 PM to CLOSE

ALL YOU CAN BOWL AND FREE PIZZA SLICES!

City Sports Grille

Sports Bar • Pub-Style Menu

LIVE MUSIC

Thursday 12/26
KARAOKE WITH DJ DAVE

Friday 12/27
NICOLE MURPHY

Saturday 12/28
SOUNDTRACK TO MONDAY

KARAOKE CONTEST

Strike Up Some Fun At SPARE TIME

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sparetimemanchester.com

037928



DESERT WIT

Dan Soder performs a pair of Granite State shows. The Colorado-born comic moved to New York City six years ago to get serious about his craft, and in 2013 his hard work paid off big time, with appearances on *Conan*, *Opie & Anthony* and a prestigious half hour spotlight on Comedy Central's *Live At Gotham*. Lately, he's the newest cast member of MTV2's *Guy Code*. Wednesday, Jan. 8, at Shaskeen Pub, 909 Elm St., Manchester and Thursday, Jan. 9, at Halligan Tavern, 32 W. Broadway, Derry. See dansoder.com.

Concord

Hermanos: Swunk Brothers
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz (105.5 JYY)
True Brew: The Hornitz

Dover

Brick House: Jett Sett/The Ride
Fury's: Bling Cherry
Kelley's Row: Pat Foley
Sonny's: Clara Berry

Epping

Holy Grail: Sireteau

Gilford

Patrick's: Sev & Mica

Hampton

Wally's Pub: Afroman Featuring Stereowolf

Hooksett

Asian Breeze: Live Music
Tap House Grille: Chuck N John

Kingston

Bucco's: Live Music

Laconia

Baja Beach Club: DJ

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Gary Lopez
Whippersnappers: Never In Vegas

Manchester

Breezeway Pub: DJ McKay
British Beer Company: D-Comp Trio
City Sports Grille: Sountrack to Monday
Derryfield: Hooda Thunk
Element: DJ Smallz
Fratello's Manchester: Dogfathers
Manchvegas: Live Rock Music
Milly's: Carolina Burn/A Simple Complex
Murphy's Taproom: Take 4
N'awlins Grille: Live Jazz
Penuche's: Freevolt
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Paranoid Social Club
Strange Brew: Jimmy East & the Soldiers of Soul

Merrimack

Homestead: Joe Rivet

Nashua

Amsterdam: Chad Verbeck
Boston Billiard Club: DJ Anthem Throwback
Country Tavern: Wooden Soul
Fody's: One Fine Mess
Stella Blu: Chris Gardner

New Boston

Molly's: Tyler Mudrick/B3

Newmarket

Stone Church: Ghost Dinner Band w/The Sitting Ducks

Peterborough

Harlow's: Welcome To Florida

Plaistow

Sad Café: Zombie Raptor, Heavy Necker

Portsmouth

British Beer Company: Small Soldiers
Dolphin Striker: Amorphous Band
Gas Light: Steve Demers, Nightclub w/DJ Koko P, Scott McRae
Hilton Garden: Pork Low Mainers
Oar House: Peter Black
Press Room: Back on the Train Holiday Show
Red Door: Tom Bartlett
Ri Ra: Cooper's Escape
Rudi's: Mike Effenberger Trio
Thirsty Moose: Jimmy's Down

Salem

Black Water Grill: Sonic Boomers

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Monkey Wrench

Warner

The Local: Patrik Gochez & The Hats

Weare

Boondocks: Erik Ray

Sunday, Dec. 29

Bedford

Copper Door: Brooks Hubbard

Concord

Hermanos: John Franzosa

Dover

Brick House: Live Jazz Brunch with Jim Dozet Trio
Cara: Open Irish Session
Londonderry Whippersnappers: Joe McDonald

Manchester

Drynk: Glitter - Pre New Year's Eve Celebration
Milly's: DJ
Shaskeen: Rap night, Industry night
Social 24: Corey Brackett
Strange Brew: Howard Randall

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Open Stage with Lou Porrazzo

Portsmouth

Dolphin Striker: Jon Nolan
Press Room: Chris Burbank & Nick Mainella
Red Door: Green Lion Crew
Rudi's: Jazz Brunch w/Sharon Jones

Monday, Dec. 30

Concord

Hermanos: John Franzosa

Dover

Sonny's: Punk/Metal DJ Night

Manchester

Fratello's Manchester: Rob Wolfe
Milly's: DJ

Merrimack

Homestead: Charlie Christos

Newmarket

Stone Church: Sinful Blues - Open Blues Jam

Portsmouth

Dolphin Striker: Old School
Press Room: Chris Klaxton
Red Door: Hush Hush Sweet Harlot
Ri Ra: Oran Mor

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6pm-11pm

Light Hors d'oeuvres
6pm-8pm

Food Tasting Stations
8pm-11pm

The McMurphy's
8pm-12am

Comedy Show
7:30pm-9pm

Party Favors
10pm

Champagne Toast
11:45pm

Fireworks
12am

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WELL ROUNDED



With influences ranging from Godsmack to the Gin Blossoms, Encircle perform at Amsterdam on Friday, Dec. 27, at 9 p.m. Made up of four outspoken musical personalities, Encircle play an eclectic selection of hard rock and metal best and most technically challenging hits spanning four decades. Along with the Zeppelin and Foo Fighters covers, the band recently added an original song to its repertoire, "Bridge Into Tomorrow." 8 Temple St., Nashua - 204-5534. See encircleband.com for more.

Tuesday, Dec. 31

Amherst

La Belle Winery: B3

Boscawen

Alan's: Natalie Turgeon Band

Brookline

Mad Hatter: Fatha Groove

Concord

Hermanos: Paul Lovely

Makris: TBD

Pit Road Lounge: Day Janiero

Tandy's: Black and White

Party w/ DJIceman Streetz

Dover

Brick House: String Theory

Cara: Truffle

Fury's: All Good:Feel Good

Collective

Kelley's Row: Living the

Dream

Sonny's: 80s Party

Epsom

Circle 9: Square Dance

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Common

Knowledge

Hampton

Wally's Pub: Decades of

Dance Party

Hollis

Alpine Grove: Margaritaville

Hooksett

Tap House Grille: Groove Cats

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Steve Tolley

Whippersnappers: Lisa Guy-
er's Gypsy Caravan

Manchester

Breezeway Pub: Drag show

British Beer Company: DJ

Katie

City Sports Grille: Between
The Lines

Derryfield: Last Kid Picked

Drynk: DJ Dancing

Fratello's Manchester: Paul

Luff (7:30-11p)

Jade Dragon: Bring Back

Brimmer

Karma: International DJ

Mazen & Belly Dancing Shows

Mad Bob's: Among The Liv-

ing w/ Tester

Manchvegas: Eric Grant Band

Milly's: Hip Hop New Year's

with Twista

Murphy's Taproom: Mugsy

Raxx: Dance Party w/DJ Mike

Shaskeen: Bash

Social 24: DJ Cootz & Josh

Porter

Strange Brew: Mr. Nick & the

Dirty Tricks & David Rousseau

Merrimack

Homestead: Gary Lopez

Milford

Clark's: Brett Wilson

Nashua

Amsterdam: Rock the Decades

w/ Pat Gendron

Arena: DJ Dancing after

Comedy

Bernie's: Countdown to Mid-

night

Fody's: Murder Mystery Din-

ner/DJ Dancing

Haluwa: Slakas

Wicked Twisted: Max Voltage

Newmarket

Stone Church: Daemon Chili

w/Long Gone and Jake Davis

& The Whiskey Stones

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: Celebration

British Beer Company: DJ

Rick

Dolphin Striker: Michael Troy

Gas Light: Party -

Masquerade

Hilton Garden: Curt and Jenn

Oar House: Boo Boo Groove

Press Room: Elsa Cross &

Rockspring

Red Door: Green Lion Crew

Ri Ra: DJ Drew

Rudi's: Rob Gerry & Mike

Effenberg

Thirsty Moose: New York

Funk Exchange

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Doubleshot

Boston/43 North

Sunapee

One Mile West: The Moores

Weare

Boondocks: DJ Barry

Wednesday, Jan. 1

Dover

Sonny's: Local Music Night

Hampton

Wally's Pub: 90's Dance party

w/DJ Provo

Manchester

Milly's: DJ

Milford

J's Tavern: Eric Neilson

Nashua

Bernie's: DK

Killarney's: Kieran McNally

Wicked Twisted: Wicked

Twisted Blues Band Jam

Portsmouth

Dolphin Striker: Old School

Red Door: Evaredy Ladies

Night

Weare

Boondocks: Blues Jam w/

Paul Spera, Junie Belanger &

Mickey McGuire

GET THE CROWDS AT YOUR GIG

Want to get your show listed in the Music This Week? Let us know all about your upcoming show, comedy show, open mike night or multi-band event by sending all the information to music@hippopress.com. Send information by 9 a.m. on Friday to have the event considered for the next Thursday's paper.

NITE CONCERTS

Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org
Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana
The Flying Monkey 39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com
Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org
Lowell Boarding House Park 40 French St., Lowell, Mass.,

www.lowellsummermusic.org
Lowell Memorial Auditorium East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com
Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavilion 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, meadowbrook.net
The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org
The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org
The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Road, Francestown
Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

Prescott Park Arts Festival 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, www.prescottpark.org, 436-2848
Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com
Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com
Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com
Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, www.verizonwirelessarena.com
Whittmore Center Arena, UNH 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, whittcenter.com

- **Nick DiPaolo** Fri., Dec. 27, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Stephen Kellogg: Alone for the Holidays Part Deux** Fri., Dec. 27, at 8, Tupelo
- **Josh Logan** Sun., Dec. 29, at 8, Palace Theatre
- **Josh Logan** Mon., Dec. 30, at 8, Palace Theatre
- **Open Mic Night Featuring Hilton Park** Thu., Jan. 2, at 8, Tupelo
- **Recycled Percussion** Fri., Jan. 3, at 7:30, Palace Theatre
- **Hot Tuna** Sat., Jan. 4, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Willie Nile** Sat., Jan. 4, at 8, Tupelo
- **Recycled Percussion** Sat., Jan. 4, at 3 & 7, Palace Theatre
- **Cherry Poppin' Daddies** Fri., Jan. 10, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Keller Williams** Fri., Jan. 10, at 8, Tupelo
- **Remember The 50's** Fri., Jan. 10, at 7, Stockbridge Theatre
- **Recycled Percussion** Sat., Jan. 11, at All Day, Flying Monkey
- **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy** Sat., Jan. 11, at 7, Cap Center
- **Beatlejuice** Sat., Jan. 11, at 8, Tupelo
- **Half Step (Dead/Garcia Tribute)** Sat., Jan. 11, at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **April Verch** Thu., Jan. 16, at 7, Franklin Opera House
- **Comedy with Mike Hanley & Orlando Baxter** Fri., Jan. 17, at 8, Tupelo
- **Caravan of Thieves** Sat., Jan. 18, at 8, Music Hall
- **Marc Cohn** Sat., Jan. 18, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Dave Mason's Traffic Jam** Sun., Jan. 19, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **1964: The Tribute** Sun., Jan. 19, at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Upright Citizens Brigade** Fri., Jan. 24, at 7, Cap Center
- **Sister Hazel Acoustic** Fri., Jan. 24, at 8, Tupelo
- **Paula Cole** Sat., Jan. 25, at 8, Tupelo

- **Marshall Crenshaw with The Bottle Rockets** Sun., Jan. 26, at 8, Tupelo
- **NRBQ** Thu., Jan. 30, at 8, Tupelo
- **Bela Fleck with Brooklyn Rider** Fri., Jan. 31, at 8, Colonial Theatre
- **Darlingside** Fri., Jan. 31, at 8, Music Hall
- **Bruce In The USA (Springsteen Cover Band)** Fri., Jan. 31, at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Max Creek** Fri., Jan. 31, at 8, Tupelo
- **Peacheaters & Playin' Dead** Sat., Feb. 1, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Bill Cosby** Sat., Feb. 1, at 7, Cap Center
- **Melissa Ferrick** Sat., Feb. 1, at 8, Tupelo
- **Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherman** Wed., Feb. 5, at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Open Mic Celebrity Series Featuring Mary Lou Lord** Thu., Feb. 6, at 8, Tupelo
- **James Montgomery Band** Fri., Feb. 7, at 8, Tupelo
- **Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes** Fri., Feb. 7, at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Motor Booty Affair** Fri., Feb. 7, at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **Lori McKenna** Sat., Feb. 8, at 8, Silver Center
- **Steve Blunt** Sat., Feb. 8, at 7, Tupelo
- **Doktor Kaboom** Sun., Feb. 9, at 7, Cap Center
- **Rain - Tribute to the Beatles** Tue., Feb. 11, at 7, Cap Center
- **Defending the Caveman** Fri., Feb. 14, at 7, Cap Center
- **Spirit of Johnny Cash** Fri., Feb. 14, at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **Rick Derringer** Fri., Feb. 14, at 8, Tupelo
- **Juston McKinney** Sat., Feb. 15, at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **Peter Asher** Thu., Feb. 20, at 7, Cap Center

- **New England Music Awards** Sat., Feb. 22, at 7, Lowell Memorial Auditorium
- **Frank Santos (R-Rated Hypnotist)** Sat., Feb. 22, at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **Dweezil Zappa** Thu., Feb. 27, at 7, Cap Center
- **Gaelic Storm** Fri., Feb. 28, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Josh Ritter** Tue., Mar. 4, at 7:30, Lebanon Opera House
- **Count Basie Orchestra** Tue., Mar. 4, at 7, Stockbridge Theatre
- **Open Mic Night Featuring Davey O** Thu., Mar. 6, at 8, Tupelo
- **Justin Moore w/ Randy Houser** Thu., Mar. 6, at 7, Tsongas Center
- **Los Lobos** Fri., Mar. 7, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Alan Kelly Gang & The Karan Casey Band** Fri., Mar. 7, at 7:30, Dana Center
- **John Ford Coley** Fri., Mar. 7, at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Sensational Francis Dunnery Electric Band** Sat., Mar. 8, at 8, Tupelo
- **Annalivia** Sat., Mar. 8, at 7, Franklin Opera House
- **Celtic Nights** Sun., Mar. 9, at 7, Rochester Opera House
- **Danu** Tue., Mar. 11, at 7, Stockbridge Theatre
- **Makem and Spain Brothers** Thu., Mar. 13, at 8, Tupelo
- **Paula Poundstone** Sat., Mar. 15, at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Jefferson Starship 40th Anniversary Tour** Sat., Mar. 15, at 8, Tupelo
- **Frank Santos (R-Rated Hypnotist)** Sat., Mar. 15, at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Royal Southern Brotherhood** Sun., Mar. 16, at 8, Tupelo
- **Keb' Mo'** Wed., Mar. 19, at 7:30, Lebanon Opera House
- **Enter the Haggis** Sun., Mar. 23, at 8, Tupelo
- **Nick Chandler & Delivered Bluegrass** Sun., Mar. 23, at 2, Lebanon Opera House



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SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Message in a Bottle*, by Nicholas Sparks, born Dec. 31, 1965.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) Earlier, when she'd spoken with Deanna on the phone, she'd tried to describe him, but because he didn't look like most of the men she knew in Boston, she'd had a hard time. She told Deanna that he was about her age, handsome in his own way and fit, but that he looked natural, as if his strength were simply the result of the life he'd chosen to live. Someone who has his own sense of style will show you a good time.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) On the horizon, the sun was sinking into a bank of cumulus clouds. She pulled out a couple of sandwiches wrapped in cellophane, as well as some Styrofoam containers of coleslaw and potato salad. Resolved: Don't use Styrofoam. Reduce, reuse, recycle.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) Garrett stirred his coffee thinking. So that was it. Though he'd grown used to his father's interrogations over the years, he wasn't in the mood to over old ground this morning. "Dad, we've gone over this before." Your patience may be tested.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) Though he couldn't understand how she could have forgotten her jacket since she'd brought only a couple of things with her, one thing had just made itself abundantly clear: he was definitely glad it had happened. Not, of course, that it mattered. Keep an eye out for a conveniently forgotten jacket.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) It was a moment of truth, and Garrett knew it. All he had to do was affirm his earlier statement and that would be the end of it. But for a few steps he didn't say anything. Lies of omission count, too.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) It was as if he could almost read her mind whenever they were together — if she wanted him to hold her hand, he reached for it before she said anything. If she just wanted to talk for a while without interruption, he listened

quietly. If she wanted to know how he was feeling about her at any particular moment, the way he looked at her made it all clear. Failure to read minds should not be grounds for divorce, but there must be a certain non-zero amount of empathy for a relationship to work. Both ways.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) He removed the bolts that held the carburetor in place and removed it from the engine. Carefully he began to take it apart, making sure nothing was too worn inside. He didn't think that this was the source of the problem, though he wanted a closer look just to make sure. Take a closer look.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) Unable to concentrate on the paperwork he needed to do, he decided to go back to the docks to finish working on the engine he had started repairing the day before. Though he definitely had to spend some time in the shop today, at the moment he needed to be alone. Don't try to work if you can't concentrate.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) She also wanted to shop this week. Not at JCPenney or Sears or places that advertised Nike shoes and Chicago Bulls T-shirts, but at little trinket stores that Kevin found boring. Think indie for your shopping.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) The whole thing was strange. Her reporter's instincts took over then, and she suddenly thought that the message might not mean anything. Quite so.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) She still dreamed about falling in love with someone, of having someone take her in his arms and make her feel she was the only one who mattered. But it was hard, if not impossible, to meet someone decent these days. Dream the impossible dream.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) She got up from her desk, feeling strangely unraveled. At the vending machine she bought herself a can of apple juice, trying to comprehend the feelings inside her. Apple juice will not explain your feelings to you.

NITE SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	1			5			
3			1	9		2	
				4		5	
	5		8				6
	9	7				8	1
6				1		3	
	8			1			
		2		6	8		3
			2			7	

SU DO KU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Last week's puzzle answers are below

12/19

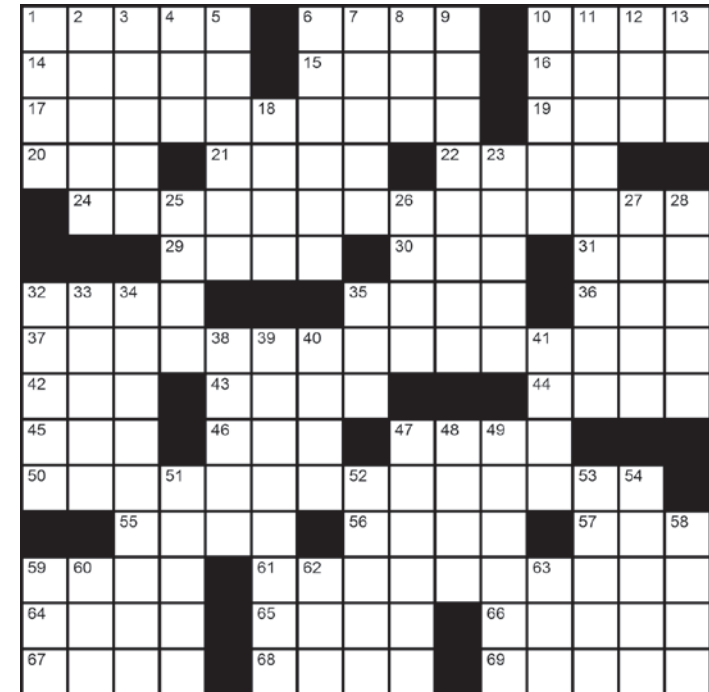
1	4	8	2	3	9	5	7	6
5	9	6	4	1	7	3	2	8
3	2	7	5	8	6	4	1	9
8	5	3	7	9	1	2	6	4
6	1	4	8	5	2	7	9	3
2	7	9	3	6	4	1	8	5
7	8	5	6	2	3	9	4	1
4	3	1	9	7	8	6	5	2
9	6	2	1	4	5	8	3	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/26

“Round Here” — a token of my gratitude

- Across**
- 1 Martial artist in “Lethal Weapon 4”
- 6 River that empties into the Caspian
- 10 Take quickly
- 14 Sweeping
- 15 Heat up in a hurry
- 16 Prefix that means “transcending”
- 17 Do a radio remembrance of a late Pantera founder?
- 19 Critters that may be “live”
- 20 Alternatives to Cokes



- 21 Portrayer of Ricky on “I Love Lucy”
- 22 “___ Lang Syne”
- 24 Metal coating that’s all the rage?
- 29 Another, in Argentina
- 30 Open a barrel
- 31 Electric fan setting
- 32 Altar area
- 35 Nicolas whom “Dog the Bounty Hunter” once posted bail for
- 36 Bilbao bear
- 37 Cater a party for Drew Brees?
- 42 Overly permissive
- 43 The Runnin’ Rebels of the NCAA
- 44 Some, in Seville
- 45 Lob’s trajectory
- 46 “___ recall...”

- 47 Right in the atlas
- 50 Punch out the clown from “It”?
- 55 A restaurant may hold it for you
- 56 Inkling
- 57 “Do Ya” rock group
- 59 “Burlesque” actress
- 61 Ubiquitous arcade game message, or a hint to this puzzle’s theme
- 64 Means
- 65 Drama king?
- 66 Water park slide
- 67 Some stocking stuffers
- 68 ___ of thousands
- 69 Logical flaws

- 23 Word with crust or hand
- 25 Open-___ shoes
- 26 Coup d’___
- 27 1900 Puccini premiere
- 28 Furry movie creatures
- 32 Insurance co. with a “spokesduck”
- 33 Oyster’s offering
- 34 “American Pie,” e.g.
- 35 Honda SUV
- 38 Visibly nervous
- 39 Pristine, to Brits
- 40 “That’s ___!”
- 41 “___ digress...”
- 47 “___ Game” (2013 film)
- 48 Yesterday, in Cuba
- 49 1980s timepiece
- 51 “Who ___?”
- 52 Jewish month that sounds like a car
- 53 Asian economic hub
- 54 Best of the best
- 58 Binary digits
- 59 Where Alabama may be viewed, for short
- 60 Follower of boo, yoo or woo
- 62 Wedding column word
- 63 Stand-up comic Margaret
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- Down**
- 1 Hook-shaped ski lift
- 2 “Love Story” novelist Segal
- 3 Trunk
- 4 Youngster
- 5 Statement of denial
- 6 World Heritage Site org.
- 7 His fame involved a lot of twists
- 8 Wanted poster letters
- 9 21, often
- 10 “New car” or “burning tire”
- 11 TV ad come-on
- 12 The Falcons, on scoreboards
- 13 Pump contents
- 18 Former Israeli PM Golda

12/19





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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

Annals of science

America's foremost advocate for frontal lobotomies as "treatment" for mental disorder, the late Dr. Walter Freeman, performed an estimated 3,500 lobotomies during the 1940s and 1950s before opposition finally solidified against him, according to a December 2013 investigation by The Wall Street Journal. At the peak of his influence, he was so confident that he demonstrated the procedure to skeptics by hammering an icepick ("from his own kitchen," the Journal reported) into both eye sockets of an electrical-shocked patient and "togglng" the picks around the brain tissue, certain that he was severing "correctly." For years, Freeman (a neurologist untrained in surgery) marshaled positive feedback from enough patients and families for the procedure to survive criticism, and he spent his final years (until his death in 1972) securing patient testimonials to "prove" the validity of lobotomies.

Cultural diversity

Each Nov. 1 is a day (or two) of craziness in the isolated mountain village of Todos Santos Cuchumatanes, Guatemala, where Mayan tradition commands continuous horse races through town, jockeyed by increasingly drunk riders, until only a sober-enough winner remains. Collisions occur in the Race of the Souls, and occasionally someone dies, but the misfortune is met with a collective shrug and regarded as a spiritual offering for fertile crops during the coming year, according to an eyewitness this year reporting for Vice.com. Ironically, for the rest of the year, the village is largely alcohol-free except for that on hand to sell to tourists.

Since the 13th century, sheepherders in Spain have had the right (still honored) to use 78,000 miles of paths in the country for seasonal flock migrations — even some streets of Madrid, including a crossing of Puerta del Sol, described as Madrid's Times Square. The shepherds pay a customary, token duty, which, according to an October Associated Press dispatch, the government proudly accepts, given the prominence of Spain's native Merino sheep breed in the world's wool market.

Postal worker Umakant Mishra, of Kanpur city in Uttar Pradesh, India, was freed by a criminal court in December — 29 years after he was charged when a money-order account turned up 92 cents short. Mishra was called to judicial hearings 348 times over the years, but it was not until recently that the government admitted it had no witnesses for the court to hear against him. A December BBC News dispatch reported, citing "official"

figures, that more than 30 million cases are pending in Indian courts.

Questionable judgment

Coughlan elementary school in Langley, British Columbia, announced to parents in November that henceforth it would not just prohibit abusive or unwanted physical contact among its kindergarteners, but all contact. Officials said they were responding to parents who objected to "rough play," but, said another parent, incredulous, "No tag, no hugging, no touching at all. ... I am not going to tell my daughter she can't touch her friends at school. I am going to teach her boundaries."

Cliches come to life

In criminal cases, DNA is usually a smoking gun for the prosecution — except, of course, if there is an "evil twin." In November a judge in Colorado Springs ruled that a suspect, Army Lt. Aaron Lucas, should have the opportunity to blame his brother Brian for a string of sexual assaults because the DNA might be Brian's. Brian has not been charged and denies any involvement, but Aaron said Brian was in two crime-scene states that Aaron was never in. Said a Denver defense lawyer, "The only time I have seen (the evil-twin defense) was on 'Law and Order: SVU.'"

Four villagers in northeast Kenya, angry that cheetahs were killing their goats, lay in wait one night in November and then chased down and captured the cheetahs. Cheetahs are regarded as the fastest mammals on Earth, but they lack

endurance; Kenyans are marathon prodigies. Indeed, the cheetahs were captured only when they ran out of gas after about four miles of pursuit by the Kenyans, and were handed over alive, and exhausted, to the Kenyan Wildlife Service.

Least competent criminals

Johnny Deleon, 20, was arrested in Houston in October, caught in the act of removing wheel caps from a Cadillac Escalade in a deli's parking lot. Even in the daylight, Deleon apparently failed to notice the many police cars in the lot (as a ceremonial planning meeting was underway in the deli). Officers, from among 30 inside, dashed out and arrested Deleon.

Recurring Themes

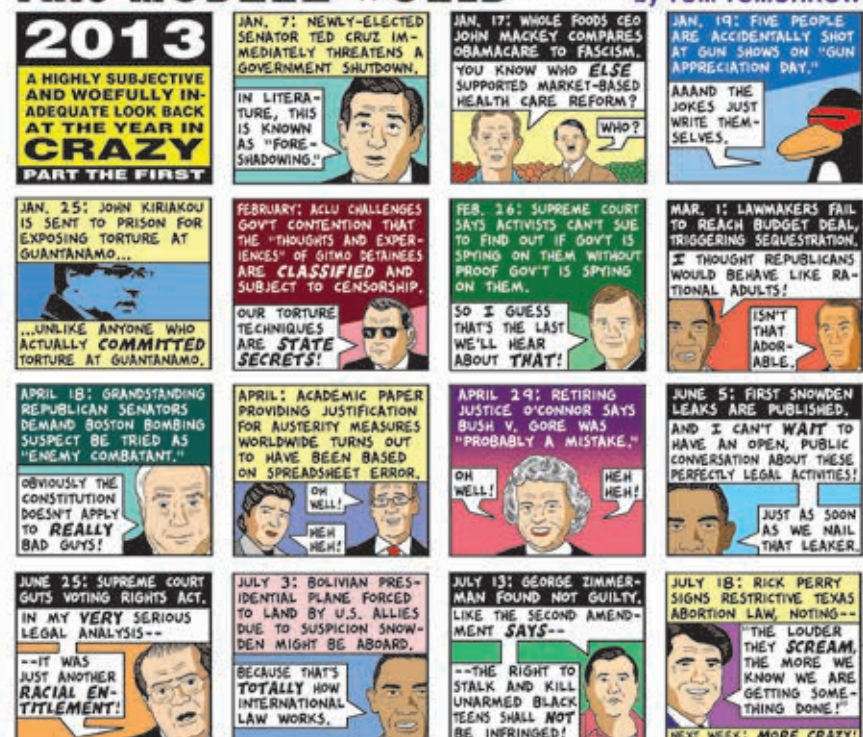
Once again a fortuitous, unrelated medical exam was credited with possibly saving a life. Los Angeles television personality Julie Chang suffered a concussion in a surfing accident recently, but the routine X-ray also showed a previously unrevealed brain tumor. She was immediately scheduled for surgery and reported to colleagues that she "will be OK."

New York animal rights activist Steven Wise pushed the envelope in December by filing a writ of habeas corpus (requiring jailers to prove any legal basis for an individual's detention) for a chimpanzee living at a Gloversville, N.Y., farm (although, in fairness, "Tommy" is being held by an animal "rescuer" who said he is seeking a proper home). (U.S. habeas corpus law has heretofore applied only to humans.)

Visit newsftheweird.universe.net.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

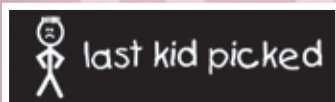


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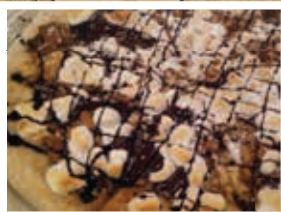
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